FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-025
Monday
7 February 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-025 CONTENTS *7 February 1994*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges UN To Halt Bosnia 'Massacres' *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Arab League Chief Comments on Talks in Germany *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Arab Atomic Energy Agency Meets in Tunis *[MAP]* 1
AMU Foreign Ministers Conclude Two-Day Meeting *[Tunis Radio]* 1
  Secretariat General Issues Communique *[Tunis Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Iraqi Papers Cite Reports on Bid To Kill 'Arafat *[AL-QADISIYAH 3 Feb]* 2
'Arafat Said Conditionally Ready To Meet Peres *[AFP]* 2
'Arafat Calls 'Emergency' Fatah Meeting 9 Feb *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Feb]* 3
Sha'th Sees Rabin-Peres 'Differences' After Davos *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Feb]* 3
Sha'th: Rabin Deliberately Delaying Agreement *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Feb]* 4
PLO's Ghawshah on Talks, 'Arafat-Peres Meeting *[Cairo International]* 5
Qaddumi Urges U.S., Russia To Pressure Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
DFLP, PFLP Heads Condemn Taba-Davos Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 6
Hamas: Movement Not Against 'Phased Solution' *[AL-RA'Y 6 Feb]* 6
Economic Expert on Construction Council Budget *[London MBC TV]* 7
'Arafat Loyalists Accused of Disrupting Union Vote *[Al-Quds Radio]* 7
Terms for Active U.S. Partnership in Talks Noted *[AL-QUDS 4 Feb]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Government Condemns Shelling of Sarajevo Market *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Dialogue Chief on Zeroual Appointment, FIS Contacts *[MENA]* 9
Government Confirms FIS Contacts; Official Killed *[Paris Radio]* 9
FIS Reportedly Plans To Escalate Armed Actions *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Feb]* 9
Armed Islamic Group Claims Killing of 70 Rivals *[AFP]* 10

Egypt

Government Seeking Apology for Israeli Remarks *[AL-SAFIR 4 Feb]* 11
Mubarak Notes Sarajevo 'Massacre,' Other Issues *[Cairo TV]* 11
Reaction Noted to Events in Bosnia-Herzegovina 13
  Lawyers Union Denounce 'Massacre' *[MENA]* 13
  Daily Urges No 'Spectators' *[MENA]* 13
  End to Arms Embargo Urged *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Prime Minister Notes Peace Process, Other Issues *[AL-MUSAWWAR 4 Feb]* 14

Libya

Col al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech in Misratah *[Tripoli TV]* 19

Sudan

Armed Group Attacks Mosque in Omdurman 23
  10 Reported Killed *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
  Security Forces Hunt for 3 Suspects *[Omdurman TV]* 23

3 Attackers Reportedly Killed *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
Casualty Toll Rises to 36 *[PANA]* 23
Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences *[SUNA]* 24
Ministers Receive Iraqi Agriculture Minister *[INA]* 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Cabinet Condemns Sarajevo Massacre, Supports U.S. on Iraq *[KUNA]* 25
Trial of Bush Plot Suspects Resumes Hearings *[KUNA]* 25
Trial Postponed Until 5 Mar *[KUNA]* 25

Yemen

Prime Minister on Political Crisis, Terrorism *[AL-AHRAM 2 Feb]* 25
'All Parties' To Meet To Prepare Accord Signing *[INA]* 28
Planning Minister: Accord in 'Precarious Situation' *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Sanaa Officials Seize Plane Carrying Military Cargo *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
Aden Source Demands Plane's Release *[MENA]* 29
UK Airline Official on 'Air Piracy' *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 29
Aviation Official Rejects Aden Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 29

IRAQ

Wrapup of Talks Between 'Aziz, UN Commission's Ekeus 31
Ekeus Notes Meeting 'Private' *[INA]* 31
Talks End *[INA]* 31
Joint Statement Issued *[INA]* 31
Joint News Conference Held *[INA]* 32
Ekeus, Delegation Departs *[INA]* 32
Paper Urges Ekeus To Set Date for 'Trial Period' *[INA]* 32
Paper Notes, Examines 'Lies' of Clinton Presidency *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 2 Feb]* 33
Tariq 'Aziz Receives PLO's 'Abdallah Hurani *[INA]* 34
Ramadan Comments on Embargo, Resuming Oil Exports *[INA]* 34
Fliers Published; Trial for Some Officials Sought *[BABIL 2 Feb]* 34
Symposium on Gulf War Opens in Baghdad 35
French Official Interviewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 2 Feb]* 35
'Misinformation' Charted *[INA]* 35
Symposium on Human Rights Opens in Baghdad 36
Ramsey Clark Chairs 1st Meeting *[INA]* 36
UK Accused of War Crimes *[INA]* 37
Kurdish Radio Notes Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 37
Iranian 'Rebels' Conclude 'War Games' Near Border *[AFP]* 38
'Reliable Source' on Opposition Attacks, Executions *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 38
Shiite Radio Reports Recent Antiregime Operations *[Voice of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 38
Arab League Informed of 27-31 Jan Airspace Violations *[Baghdad Radio]* 39

ISRAEL

Rabin Rejects Proposal for Talks Without 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Peres Interviewed on 'Difficulties' in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Peres Fears 'Slowdown' in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Al-Tibi: 'Arafat-Peres Meeting Linked to Progress *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Sarid Denies Allegations of Rabin-Peres Discord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Cabinet Discusses Peace Talks, IDF Involvement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Fatah Hawks Said Disobeying PLO-Tunis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Baraq on Talks, Disagreement With Foreign Ministry *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Rabinovich on Proposal for Phased Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Two Palestinians Killed in Clashes With IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Czech Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43

  - Reports of Nuclear Sales to Iran Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43

JORDAN

- Iran Issues Letter on Beirut Murder, Embassy Staff *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 Feb]* 44
  - Embassy Source on Staff Reduction, Ties *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Feb]* 44
- King Confers With al-Asad in Damascus, Returns *[Amman TV]* 45
- King: Differences Delay Yemeni Accord Signing *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
- Omani Minister Conveys Message to King, Departs *[Amman TV]* 45
- Prince Hasan Holds Meeting With EC Team *[Amman TV]* 46
- King Comments Upon Return From Multistate Tour *[Amman TV]* 46
  - King Reviews U.S. Relations *[Amman TV]* 46
- Chief Delegate on Latest Round of Peace Talks *[Amman TV]* 47
- 'Usefulness' of Further Rounds of Talks Questioned *[AL-DUSTUR 4 Feb]* 47
- U.S. Team To Visit, Discuss Change in Cargo Searches *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Feb]* 48
- Party Spokesman Says U.S. Threatened Government *[AKHIR KHABAR 2-3 Feb]* 48
- Investigation Continues in Recent Cinema Bombings 49
  - Arrest of Five People Confirmed *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Feb]* 49
  - Two Confess to Theater Blasts *[Amman Radio]* 49
  - Suspects Linked to 'Muhammad's Army' *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Feb]* 50

LEBANON

- Roundup of 4-7 Feb Clashes in Southern Region 51
  - Resistance Claims Attack on Convoy *[VOL]* 51
  - Three SLA Soldiers Wounded *[Kafr Killa Radio]* 51
  - Katyusha Rockets Fired at Security Strip *[VOL]* 51
  - Mortar Rounds Hit SLA Post *[Kafr Killa Radio]* 51
  - Areas Come Under Shelling *[VOL]* 51
  - Israelis Shell Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 51
  - SLA, Israelis Exchange Fire With 'Saboteurs' *[Kafr Killa Radio]* 51
  - Israel Launches Air Raids *[Beirut Radio]* 51
  - Further on Israeli Air Raids *[RFL]* 52
  - Hizballah Kills 3 Israelis, Wounds 3 *[AFP]* 52
  - Israeli Planes Carry Out Raid *[VOL]* 52
- Hizballah Issues Statement on Israeli Attacks, Plans *[AL-'AHD 28 Jan]* 52
- Lebanese Forces Denounce Arrests, 'Political Repression' *[RFL]* 53
  - Official on Reasons for Detentions *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Feb]* 53
- Defense Minister on Peace Process, Syrian Presence *[AL-WATAN 30 Jan]* 54
- Interior Minister Views UK Talks, al-Ta'if Process *[London AL-HAYAH 30 Jan]* 56
- Al-Hirawi Leaves for Ivory Coast President's Funeral *[Beirut Radio]* 57

SYRIA

- King Husayn Arrives for Meeting With al-Asad *[SANA]* 58
  - King Husayn Departs *[SANA]* 58
- President al-Asad Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 58
- Commentary: Geneva Summit Defines Nature of Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 58
- Commentary: Israel Responsible for Obstructing Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 59
- Any Compromise on Golan Said 'Out of Question' *[Damascus Radio]* 59

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Government Protests to Uzbekistan on 'Interference' *[Kabul Radio]* 61
- Government Planes Bomb Dostam Militia Airports *[Kabul Radio]* 61
- Two Militia Commanders Killed in Faryab Province *[Kabul Radio]* 61

India

Leaders Counter Pakistan's Charges on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Anti-Pakistan Demonstrations Held in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 62
    Protests Held Near U.S. Embassy *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Talks With China on Confidence-Building Measures End *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Surface-to-Air Missile Successfully Test-Fired *[Delhi TV]* 62

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers First Friday Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 63
'More Than 20' Arrested for Assassination Bid *[AFP]* 65
Khamene'i Warns Against 'Plots of Satanic Powers' *[IRNA]* 65
Sunni Leaders Condemn Presidential Assassination Bid *[IRNA]* 66
Muslims Stage Unity Demonstration in Zahedan *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Jordan's Decision Part of 'U.S. Effort' To Isolate Iran *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Feb]* 66
U.S. Navy's 'Illegal' Gulf Activities Protested *[IRNA]* 67
Europe, U.S. Show 'Unlimited Decadence' Toward Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Ministry Issues Statement on Sarajevo Attack *[Tehran Radio]* 67
    Further on Sarajevo Shelling *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Naval Exercises Planned With Pakistan *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Sultan of Brunei Concludes Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 68
    Communique Issued on Visit *[IRNA]* 69
Besharati Appointed Head of Law Enforcement Forces *[Tehran Radio]* 69

Pakistan

Bhutto on Kashmir Strike, Indian Leader's Remarks *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Government Protests India's Sharma's Remarks on Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Bhutto Reaffirms Support for 'Usurped Rights' *[Islamabad TV]* 70
'Complete Strike' Held in Soldarity With Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 70
Bhutto's Spouse To Carry Medicine, Message to Saddam *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 71
CIA Shooting Suspect Reportedly Sighted in Sehwan *[THE NEWS 5 Feb]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges UN To Halt Bosnia 'Massacres'

NC0602162394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] The Arab League has asked the international community and the United Nations for immediate action to halt massacres of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina perpetrated by the Serbs, who take advantage of the world silence and the blockade that prevents any defensive weapons from reaching the Muslims there.

In a statement made today, the Arab League General Secretariat called on the Security Council to use all possible means to restore peace to this republic according to the principles of law and justice and not the policy of aggression and occupation.

In its statement, the Arab League General Secretariat emphasized that it is following with extreme concern the tragic developments in Bosnia and the Serb forces' continued killing of unarmed civilians, especially the tragic incident that led to the killing and wounding of 263 Muslims when Serbs shelled the capital of Sarajevo yesterday.

Arab League Chief Comments on Talks in Germany

NC0502093594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has ended a several-day visit to Germany, during which he held talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and other senior German officials.

'Abd-al-Majid held a news conference at the end of his visit to Bonn last night. He said he and German officials discussed ways to promote Arab-European cooperation, especially with Germany, and efforts to resolve the Middle East problem. He added that the talks also dealt with Arab viewpoints on various issues, the Arab-European dialogue, and expansion of the Security Council's permanent membership. He said that he and the German foreign minister discussed the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue and the international community's stand on it, with which the Arab League is not satisfied.

Arab Atomic Energy Agency Meets in Tunis

LD0402162594 Rabat MAP in English 1348 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Tunis, Feb 4 (TAP/Pool/UMA)—The 2nd extraordinary session of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency general congress opened here Thursday [3 February] with the participation of Yemeni Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad 'Ali al-Salami who officially submittd his country's application for membership. Tunisian secretary of state to scientific research and technology Mungi Safra who welcomed Yemen's application, said the session is to examine some of the agency's functions in order to put nuclear technology in the service of global development of the Arab society.

For his part, Director General of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency Mahmud Barakat underlined in this respect that the aim of the agency is essentially to develop cooperation among member countries, coordinate their actions and hold meetings between Arab experts concerning the peaceful use of atomic energy. The agenda of the session includes revision of the convention providing for the creation of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency and for its internal regulations as well as some basic resolutions.

The Tunis-based Arab Atomic Energy Agency has been created in 1989 and the convention on creation was signed in 1965. It works under the aegis of the Arab League. Besides Tunisia, the agency gathers Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and Syria.

AMU Foreign Ministers Conclude Two-Day Meeting

LD0402142694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the two-day 14th session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers' council ended this morning. [passage omitted]

AMU Secretary General Mohamed Amamou gave us the following statement at the end of this session:

[Begin Amamou recording] Every presidency period is a stage in the joint Maghreban action. There is great hope that the stages of Arab Maghreb action will continue in a way that will be in compliance with the aspirations of peoples and work for the resolutions of the presidency council in the various fields in which they have adopted resolutions or future resolutions which they can adopt. Thus, our Maghreban action is always characterized by optimism. [end recording]

Secretariat General Issues Communique

LD0402185994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Secretariat General has issued the following communique:

The council of foreign ministers of the member-states of AMU at its 14th session, held in Tunis on 3-4 February 1994, looked into the request of some member-states for the postponement of the convening of the sixth session of the presidential council of the union, which was scheduled for this week. Agreement was reached among the member-states of the union that the sixth session of the presidential council will be held in Tunis at a future date to be fixed through consultation between His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his brothers the leaders of the member-states of the union.

Palestinian Affairs

Iraqi Papers Cite Reports on Bid To Kill 'Arafat

JN0602205694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 94

[Text] Amman—AL-QADISIYAH monitoring—Jordanian authorities have disclosed an attempt to assassinate Mr. Yasir 'Arafat during his latest visit to Amman.

They arrested a number of Palestinians, who were armed with RPG's with the intention of hitting 'Arafat's plane upon landing at the airport. The suspects admitted that they were planning to assassinate the Palestinian leader for signing the Gaza-Jericho accord with the Zionist enemy.

[Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 3 February publishes a frontpage MENA report citing Palestinian sources in Amman as saying that Jordan's intelligence services aborted an attempt to kill 'Arafat during his latest visit to Amman by downing his plane as it landed at the airport].

'Arafat Said Conditionally Ready To Meet Peres

NC0702071794 Paris AFP in English 0325 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 7 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is ready to meet here this week with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres if Israel shows more flexibility toward implementing Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, a senior PLO source said late Sunday [6 February].

The Palestine Liberation Organization representative to Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, earlier disclosed that 'Arafat had turned down a chance to see Peres here on Monday on the grounds that Israel was delaying agreement on a final autonomy deal.

He said the PLO leader would hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Tuesday.

In Tunis a PLO source told AFP that 'Arafat would travel to Cairo on Tuesday and would meet Peres "in the event that there is progress in the Israeli position."

He said the PLO was sending a delegation here on Monday headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the organization's executive committee, to meet Peres in another bid to overcome obstacles blocking application of a September agreement between the PLO and Israel.

The accord offered limited self-rule to Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. But its implementation, scheduled to start with the withdrawal of Israeli troops on December 13, has been repeatedly delayed by disagreements over security issues.

In the latest attempt to iron out differences, 'Abd-Rabbuh will be accompanied by Faysal al-Husayni, a prominent Palestinian figure from the territories, Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO economic wing, and Nabil Sha'th, leader of the PLO negotiating team on security questions.

In another development, Ahmad al-Tibi, a senior aide to 'Arafat, predicted Sunday in Jerusalem after discussions with Peres that a comprehensive autonomy accord would be signed in Cairo this week.

"I can say an overall agreement will be signed this week in Cairo ... [ellipsis as received] Mr. Peres is committed to meeting with Mr. 'Arafat," al-Tibi declared, describing Peres as "sincere and serious in trying to accomplish an agreement very soon."

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin meanwhile refused to confirm that Peres would be in Cairo on Monday, saying: "We will issue a statement in due time."

But Gad Ben Ari also said Rabin had told the Israeli cabinet he was still "interested" in having the Peres-'Arafat meeting "take place as planned."

The goal of the meeting would be to "agree on how to pursue the negotiations with the PLO in order to end them as soon as possible," Ben Ari said without promising that a final accord would be reached in Cairo.

The Cairo negotiations between Peres and the PLO team will focus on a list of points drawn up in the Swiss resort of Davos where Peres and 'Arafat met on January 29-30, Kamal told reporters after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Both sides emerged optimistic from the Davos encounter.

But while 'Arafat said he would be ready to sign a final deal in Cairo this week, Rabin said it needed three or four more weeks and the Israeli army raised its own reservations.

"The security issues are the most important, but they are not the only ones," Rabin warned on Wednesday. "We will also have to agree on civilian and economic issues."

The key stumbling-blocks remain the control of border crossings with Egypt and Jordan into the new autonomous areas and measures for protecting Jewish settlements in Gaza.

But according to Israeli press reports, the two sides agreed in Davos on the amount of land around Jericho to be granted self-rule.

A PLO statement on Sunday appealed to the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of a Middle East peace initiative launched in 1991, to "pressure" Israel into "rapidly" withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The communique, drafted by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, charged that the behavior of Israeli authorities "clearly shows that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to avoid a withdrawal of Israeli forces under the inadmissible pretext of security, which bears no relation to reality."

'Arafat Calls 'Emergency' Fatah Meeting 9 Feb

JN0702094394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 94 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman, SAWT AL-SHA'B—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called an emergency meeting for the Fatah Central Committee in the Tunisian capital next Wednesday [9 February].

Sources said the Central Committee will also hear from Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, a detailed report on his meeting with Peres in Cairo. President 'Arafat was supposed to attend that meeting.

The same sources said the Central Committee will discuss the appointment of a new member to replace Subhi Abu-Karsh, the Palestinian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who passed away last month.

All members of the Central Committee will attend the meeting, except for al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, who was admitted to hospital, in an emergency case, after his arrival in Amman from Cairo in the evening on 5 February.

Sha'th Sees Rabin-Peres 'Differences' After Davos

PM0402134894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Disagreement Between Rabin and Peres Over Results of Davos Meetings"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that he believes there are differences between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over security issues. He stressed in a statement to AL-HAYAH that negotiations are being conducted "inside the Israeli Government"—which automatically suspends Palestinian-Israeli negotiations over arrangements for implementing self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

Sha'th disclosed that Rabin asked Peres to postpone his talks with Palestinian President 'Arafat and to return to Israel to get his approval of what had been agreed in Davos. And he said: "We consider what was agreed between 'Arafat and Peres in Davos an objective shift toward easing the the problems obstructing the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule agreement."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks criticized Rabin's position on the negotiations, pointing out that it "delays" reaching an agreement. He said: "We understand the need for the agreement Peres has reached to be approved by his leadership. But Rabin's announcement that no agreement has been reached with the Palestinians makes the Israeli side's credibility the object of doubt. It also violates the Declaration of Principles agreement signed by the two sides."

Sha'th pointed out that Peres' position was positive, which is why President 'Arafat agreed to suspend the negotiations and postpone them until next week in Cairo to give him a chance to discuss the matter with Rabin.

He said: "The Palestinian side is still awaiting the Israeli position before 'Arafat and Peres meet next week, and the Israelis have to come back to us with what they have agreed upon so that our commitment to what we agreed upon in Davos will continue."

Sha'th described what 'Arafat and Peres agreed upon as "an objective shift." He said that they agreed that the corridor linking the Jericho area with the Gaza Strip be under the control of the Palestinian National Authority only, and that the two sides jointly assume security supervision of the crossings, on the grounds that Israel considers itself responsible for external security during the transitional phase, and it is entitled to obtain the necessary security information about the crossing traffic.

He pointed out that the two sides "nearly reached a full agreement on the issues concerning the crossings, the size of the Jericho area, and the road linking Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip with the Israeli and Palestinian borders."

He stressed the Palestinians' adherence to "the implementation of measures to safeguard the Palestinians' dignity, including raising the Palestinian flag over the main building of the crossing and the presence of Palestinian police at the crossings."

Sha'th went on: "The Israelis must realize that there are common interests for the two sides which have been agreed upon, even though we consider that what was agreed upon between 'Arafat and Peres is suspended, pending what he is going to come back with." He stressed that, if the Israelis do not backtrack on what 'Arafat and Peres agreed upon, "it will represents a step forward."

He believes that delaying the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho "would disrupt the withdrawal timetable. We insist that the withdrawal be completed on 13 April, and the Israelis must bear the consequences of their delay. And they must complete the withdrawal on the set date."

He warned that "patience has limits. The U.S. and Russian cosponsors must intervene if no tangible progress is achieved."

He urged the Americans to "intervene so that what was signed in front of them in the White House will be implemented."

Sha'th: Rabin Deliberately Delaying Agreement

TA0402123394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Feb 94 p 2

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, in Cairo, by Smadar Peri on 3 February]

[Text] [Sha'th] I do not understand Rabin. We could have signed the agreement in Davos last week. Rabin, however, refused. I am telling you this in no uncertain terms—Rabin deliberately delayed the signing.

[Peri] Dr. Sha'th, Peres and 'Arafat will meet in Cairo in three days. Is there any chance they will sign the agreement this time?

[Sha'th] I have no expectations and I also do not know what to think. I wish I could put my finger on the real reason that Rabin is delaying the signing.

[Peri] Is Rabin delaying? 'Arafat was the one who agreed and then backtracked.

[Sha'th] I want to tell you unequivocally that in Davos last week we could have signed, but Rabin spoiled it. I do not understand why he did this. Perhaps it is because the agreement with Syria is more important for him; because of the over-sensitivity of your senior defense establishment, or because of the tension between your number one and number two men.

I have witnessed this tension between the number one and number two men on our side as well. I recognize the symptoms.

[Peri] Tell us your version of what exactly happened at Davos.

[Sha'th] I think that Rabin is now trying to play the game he believes we played in Cairo when Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Peres reached an agreement and 'Arafat canceled it at the last minute.

Let me tell you what happened at Davos. We sat in one room with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and everything was almost wrapped up. Peres said: I have to make a final phone call to Rabin. He was radiant. Then he went to make his phone call and returned completely downcast. We immediately understood things did not go well. Peres returned to the table and said: I am sorry, I do not have time, I have to fly to Washington. He offered no explanations, but we gathered that Jerusalem decided to hold back.

[Peri] What happened after Peres left?

[Sha'th] We agreed to continue the talks in Cairo on Tuesday [1 February]. The Israelis, however, failed to appear. I phoned Amnon Shahaq, the head of the Israeli delegation, and asked him why he did not show up. Shahaq said: I did not receive any instructions. Later I called again, but Shahaq repeated the same words without offering any explanations. I asked him: When will you come? Why don't you send Yo'el Singer meanwhile? Shahaq answered: I do not know.

[Peri] Do you think Rabin does not want to reach an agreement?

[Sha'th] He is behaving strangely, with a mixture of positive and negative elements. I think he is acting out of anger. Since Rabin assumed power he has been changing his priorities every month. Once it was al-Asad, and then it was 'Arafat. One month he is talking about 'Syria First,' the next month he opts for the 'PLO First.' Now 'Arafat is the good guy and al-Asad the villain; next month it will be exactly the opposite, with Rabin giving al-Asad and 'Arafat opposite roles.

[Peri] You claim that Rabin is conducting his policy out of anger. My colleague Sever Plotzker wrote that 'Arafat is conducting a policy of "coitus interruptus."

[Sha'th, laughing] This term is inappropriate. Can anybody suspect 'Arafat of not being interested in an agreement and a withdrawal? If you want to speak about "coitus interruptus," then look at Rabin-Peres. It is there you will find a coitus interruptus, not among us.

'Arafat was never as positive, flexible, realistic, warm, and humane as he was in Davos. You should have followed the deluge of telephone calls from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to the Israeli delegation. Every five minutes there was a phone call from Rabin or Baraq. You would think that your entire army and defense establishment took on your diplomatic echelon at Davos.

[Peri] People in Israel believe 'Arafat wants to delay the signing of the agreement in order to squeeze more concessions out of Israel.

[Sha'th] Let me tell you in no uncertain terms: Your boss does not want the agreement to be signed now. He also does not want anybody else to do the job for him. At the same time I am not saying Rabin has backtracked. He is interested in the agreement, but he is in no hurry to adhere to the timetable, even if everything has been prepared.

[Peri] How long will it take to finalize the agreement?

[Sha'th] It is possible to finalize it next week. Although some issues still need to be settled, such as the border crossings and the security of the Gaza Strip and Jericho area settlements, altogether we reached reasonable standards in Davos.

If there is a will to sign, it will be possible to wrap things up. You will not believe how diligent and productive Singer and I can be. In Davos we worked around the clock. I did not even see the door of my hotel room. I reached Davos by helicopter and was driven to the (Zehof) hotel, where we worked until 0600. Everything went fine. I thought to myself that this time we are going to finish things up. Peres was very cooperative and happy—until Rabin's phone call.

[Peri] What did you think when Peres reentered the room with such a dejected look?

[Sha'th] It reminded me of my university days. We had a lecturer who was always late or absent. I decided to punish him by not coming to some of the lectures, but in the end I lost credit for that course.

[Peri] If you decide to punish Rabin you could lose the chance for an Israeli withdrawal.

[Sha'th] Rabin cannot afford to let this go. He stands to lose too much.

[Peri] What do you think about the criticism leveled at Peres after everybody saw him holding hands with 'Arafat?

[Sha'th, laughing] I read in the newspapers that Rabin was angry. Could it be that he was jealous? I do not want to intervene in this unique relationship between your number one and number two men. However, I really do not understand why Peres has to apologize for "holding hands" with 'Arafat, and why Rabin had to immediately flex his muscles.

'Arafat did not want to get Peres in trouble when he took his hand. On the contrary, our number one man tried to evince warmth, to be communicative and positive with the man you sent to conduct the negotiations. It was a demonstration of the desire for peace. Instead of a positive reaction, however, there was an uproar in Israel. A simple humane gesture was blown all out of proportion.

[Peri] Now, in this interview from your Cairo home, you seem to be upset and bitter.

[Sha'th] I have good reason to be frustrated at a personal level. I was invited, along with Shim'on Peres, by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, to receive a prize from the "Buds of Peace" organization. I had to apologize to the organizers and tell them I was waiting in Cairo for Shahaq and Singer to finalize the draft agreement. However, they did not come because, as they put it, "they did not receive any instructions." I know very well who was it who did not give them those instructions.

PLO's Ghawshah on Talks, 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

NC0702091094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 7 February; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, let us begin this dialogue by trying to clarify the status of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that seek to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Where do the talks stand? What points have been agreed upon?

[Ghawshah] Doubtless, agreement has been reached on numerous points but we have not yet received an Israeli response to several others. At the Davos meeting, several points were raised to which Israeli Foreign Minister Peres gave no answer. He said he wished to consult with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and would return with a response. We are awaiting the Israeli reply to see how much momentum it would impart to the negotiations. Failing this, we will stay in the vicious circle in which Israel wants the negotiations to revolve. This is the result of Israel's hardline attitude and intransigence.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe the meeting with the Israeli foreign minister in Cairo today will lay the foundations to implement the Declaration of Principles?

[Ghawshah] If Israel shows a positive attitude, this will remove many hurdles and make it possible to reach agreement within days. If Israel maintains a hardline position, the vicious circle will persist.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, observers ask that if all these problems have occurred in the initial stages of implementing the Declaration of Principles, what will happen when many other complicated problems, now postponed, are tackled? Does the pessimistic outlook that keeps emerging also affect the PLO leaders?

[Ghawshah] The Israeli positions raise eyebrows, especially as the Palestinians have shown much flexibility and made many concessions. Instead of responding favorably, Israel has persisted with its hardline attitudes. We believe that the Palestinians are more flexible and more committed to implementing the agreement on the specified dates.

[Al-Jundi] There is, doubtless, a great difference between flexibility and making concessions, is there not?

[Ghawshah] As I have said, we, the Palestinians, have shown much flexibility. We made concessions sometimes to surmount the obstacles barring the implementation of the agreement. The Israelis, in return, adopted a hardline position and are still making proposals that are not close to the agreement's text and do not show a real commitment to implement it on the specified dates.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin often discusses security. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announces that no concessions can be made on security. Do the Israelis realize that security is also a Palestinian concern?

[Ghawshah] We have approached the security issue as such. But the other side exaggerates the issue and claims that some issues are security affairs when they're not. We think that continuing Israeli intransigence and stubbornness on some positions will not achieve security, but constitute a future threat to it.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Ghawshah, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow and meet President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Can we say that this a sign that 'Arafat will not meet Peres or will only come to Cairo after the Palestinian delegation has conducted lengthy discussions with the Israeli foreign minister and possibly reached real results that merely need a signature?

[Ghawshah] Brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak will deal with bilateral ties. This is important to the Palestinians. They will also consult on numerous issues. We cannot link the date of this visit with Peres' visit. As for 'Arafat's meeting with Peres, or possibly with Rabin or others, this will depend on the progress in the negotiations and on Israel's willingness to overcome the hurdles and reach an agreement.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that 'Arafat's failure to come to meet Peres in Cairo today is a Palestinian message indicating that 'Arafat's talks with the Israeli foreign minister are futile?

[Ghawshah] We cannot say that. But we do not think it is necessary for 'Arafat to meet Peres in all the ongoing meetings. Remember, the basic meetings are between the delegations and the members of the Liaison Committee. Although the need occasionally arises for a meeting between President 'Arafat and an Israeli delegation headed by Peres, we basically believe that President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin should hold a meeting. Its purpose would be to reach a final agreement and sign it.

[Al-Jundi] We thank our guest Dr. Samir Ghawshah, a member of the PLO Executive Committee. You are always welcome. Thank you.

[Ghawshah] Do not mention it.

Qaddumi Urges U.S., Russia To Pressure Israel

JN0602193894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has called on Russia and the United States, the cosponsors of the Middle East process, to pressure Israel to expeditiously withdraw from Gaza and Jericho.

In his statement, Qaddumi said that Israeli behavior definitely proves that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is trying to avoid withdrawing the Israeli forces under security pretexts that are unacceptable and not in line with reality and facts.

DFLP, PFLP Heads Condemn Taba-Davos Talks

JN0502105194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has condemned the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Taba-Davos negotiations. He said: They contradict the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of peace based on the exchange of land for peace, which were reaffirmed at the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva.

Addressing a crowded ceremony in al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus yesterday on the DFLP's 25th anniversary, Hawatimah added that the Oslo-Davos agreement [as heard] is a partial and separate agreement that gives nothing in return. He noted that this agreement was concluded behind the backs of the Palestinian people and their intifadah and that it is bound to fail.

'Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], also delivered a speech on behalf of the joint PFLP-DFLP command and the alliance of Palestinian forces. Sayf Bin-'Ali also delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab liberation parties and movements, and 'Ammar al-Musawi, deputy head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, delivered a speech on behalf of the Lebanese national and Islamic resistance.

The speakers condemned the Oslo and Davos negotiations and the Gaza-Jericho agreement—which disavow the Palestinian people's rights—and called for dropping these agreements. They also praised the brave intifadah in the occupied Arab territories and the steadfastness of our kinsfolk in the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

The rally was attended by a number of secretary generals, members of political bureaus and central committees of Palestinian factions, a number of representatives of the Lebanese national and Islamic movement and Arab liberation movements, some members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Damascus, and a crowd of citizens.

Hamas: Movement Not Against 'Phased Solution'

JN0602161394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Feb 94 p 27

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has announced that the health of its founder, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, began to deteriorate four days ago.

Shaykh Yasin has been in Kefar Yona prison in occupied Palestine since May 1989. The Israeli Military Court sentenced him to life imprisonment plus 15 years.

The Hamas representative in Jordan, Muhammad Nazzal, told AL-RA'Y that Hamas received reports from the occupied territories saying that Shaykh Yasin's health is precarious. He denounced Arab and international public opinion for ignoring the cause of Shaykh Yasin and urged human rights organizations and international establishments to pressure Israel to free Shaykh Yasin immediately. The shaykh has spent four years in prison in very bad physical condition.

Nazzal said that delays in the trial of Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi [spokesman of former Palestinian deportees in south Lebanon] have no legal justification, and are aimed at preventing him, and those who returned from Marj al-Zuhur, from playing their political role in confronting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Nazzal disclosed that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, Hamas' military wing, and the Fatah Hawks groups coordinate military operations confronting Israeli occupation.

He said the martyrdom of Salim Muwafi, a Fatah Hawks commander in Gaza, a few days ago emphasized that the enemy is going ahead in its onslaught to liquidate all mujahidin and strugglers, regardless of their organizational affiliation. He hailed Fatah Hawks groups who announced they will continue armed struggle.

Answering a question on delaying the Doctors Union elections in the Gaza Strip, Nazzal said: The delay is supposed to last for a few days as a result of the recent martyrdom of one of Fatah Hawks commanders.

A similar delay was recently announced for elections at the Islamic University in Gaza following the martyrdom of 'Imad 'Aqil, one of the 'Izz-al-Din Battalions commanders.

Answering a question, Nazzal said Hamas is not against a phased solution that restores any part of the occupied Palestinian land, on the condition that the Zionist entity is not recognized and that no part of the Palestinian land is ceded.

He added: The current negotiations to implement Gaza-Jericho agreement do not represent a phased solution as presented by the PLO in the 1970's.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Nazzal said the Davos talks proved that the Palestinian side is the only party making concessions, and that delaying the signing of the agreement was simply a maneuver to market the new concessions made by the PLO leadership and to convince the Palestinian and Arab public opinion to accept the agreement as an important political achievement.

Nazzal expected more Palestinian concessions during the next PLO- Israeli talks. He said these concessions will tempt Israel to tighten its position on all issues negotiated during the next stage.

Economic Expert on Construction Council Budget

NC0602204994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] The delegation from the Palestinian Council for Construction and Development has held meetings in Brussels with experts from the European Union [EU]. During these meetings, they discussed support for the council, which so far does not have a budget. Brussels recently hosted a seminar about the future of democracy and growth in the post-peace age in the Middle East in which a number of Palestinian figures participated, including the Palestinian intellectual, Professor Edward Sa'id.

During the seminar, our correspondent in Brussels Nur-al-Din al-Faridi met with Antoine Zahlan, Palestinian economic expert specializing in development affairs, and asked him how prepared the Palestinian side is to develop the economy of the occupied territories.

[Begin recording] [Zahlan] Many studies have been conducted inside the occupied territories on numerous projects for villages and towns in Palestine. All these studies were prepared on different aspects. However, there were no funds to implement the projects. Now many of these studies are being looked at again, and the World Bank and EU have gathered this information and are reviewing it. They are now making proposals on financing the implementation of these projects. However, our council so far does not have the appropriate bodies to study these projects.

[Al-Faridi] What is the budget of the Council for Construction and Development?

[Zahlan] Currently nothing, since we have not had any assistance to start implementing it. Therefore, most of our work comes from the contributions of individuals.

[Al-Faridi] Is it right for you to start discussing issues of regional cooperation with Jordan and Egypt and some transportation links with Israel, for example, while the political agreement has not yet been implemented and the promised international contributions have not arrived yet?

[Zahlan] With regard to the council, it is not holding any negotiations with Israel for cooperation on its work. Its speciality is to transfer international, Arab, and Palestinian aid for specific goals that might serve Palestinian society and help it integrate once again with its neighbors, the Arab countries. Our duty is to reunite the Palestinian economy with its neighbors. [end recording]

'Arafat Loyalists Accused of Disrupting Union Vote

JN0502212994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The United Islamic ticket [al-qa'imah al-islamiyah al-muwahhadah] and the Medical Democratic

Alliance Bloc [kutlat al-tahaluf al-tibbi al-dimuqrati] of the Medical Society have denounced the incidents at the elections for the Medical Society at al-Azhar University in Gaza. A statement distributed by the two parties and printed by local Jerusalem newspapers said armed 'Arafat loyalists burst onto university grounds, smashing furniture and tearing up election posters. They then threatened the committee supervising the vote, saying that unless they left the campus within a quarter of an hour they would wreck their cars. The committee left to prevent infighting.

The statement called this behavior a brazen violation of all our values. It is a flagrant breach of all democratic values and a form of terrorism, for which the 'Arafat supporters must be held responsible. We urge all nationalist and Islamic forces to assume their responsibilities toward such behavior, and we call on the committee to set a new election date for next Friday, 11 February, the statement said.

Terms for Active U.S. Partnership in Talks Noted

TA0702112394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 11

[Editorial: "The Required U.S. Partnership"]

[Text] Reports indicating that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to visit the Middle East next month raise anew the issue of the U.S. partnership in the peace talks and whether this partnership is effective and active or merely a media term that has no connection with reality.

If we overlook a known fact—namely, that the Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement was reached in the absence of that partnership and that the rounds of negotiations between the various Arab negotiating parties and Israel, held in the U.S. capital, have ended in deadlock on all or most of the tracks—then one is more than justified in questioning the role and effectiveness of the U.S. partnership.

The United States' silence in the face of Israeli practices that were and are still being carried out in the occupied Arab territories, including the pursuit of fugitives, settlement activity, and detentions, as well as its silence in the face of the ongoing stalemate in the Palestinian-Israeli talks and Israel's evasion of its commitments and its disregard for the timetable on implementing the agreement under the pretext that the dates are "not sacred," makes an observer feel that the U.S. partnership in the peace process is neither effective nor adequate.

The most elementary interpretation of U.S. partnership means adopting the resolutions of international legitimacy and their obvious meaning and calling what is self-evident by its real name. The occupied territories are, in fact, occupied and not disputed, because this term, adopted lately by Washington, creates the impression that those who champion Arab rights are on an equal footing with the Israeli party. During recent rounds of negotiations in Washington, the United States tended to dilute the concepts and terms approved by the international community in describing the situation in the occupied territories. To a large extent, this endangers the provisions of the terms of reference on which the peace process is based.

The Palestinians and the Arabs are interested in an active U.S. partnership that will manifest itself in difficult times and lead the Israeli side back to the reality and spirit of the peace concepts as adopted by the international community. Such a partnership will certainly boost the peace process in the long run, because it will contribute to the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace acceptable to coming generations, who alone will decide whether to preserve that peace.

Algeria

Government Condemns Shelling of Sarajevo Market

LD0602163694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in a statement today that Algeria strongly condemned the shelling of the central market in Sarajevo and was making an urgent appeal to the international community to translate all the resolutions of the UN Security Council into action immediately.

Dialogue Chief on Zeroual Appointment, FIS Contacts

NC0402161594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Algiers, 4 Feb (MENA)—Youcef Khatib, chairman of the National Dialogue Conference, has criticized those casting doubts on the legitimacy of Liamine Zeroual's appointment as president of Algeria because no elections were held. He said that President Zeroual gained the support of those attending the dialogue and of various political forces in the country, including those who did not participate in the dialogue.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Algeria, Khatib said: The political parties that withdrew from the dialogue were seeking to frustrate it. We know what their objectives were.

He noted that a draft document on organizing the transitional period was presented for discussion during the dialogue and that all the participating parties and organizations approved it.

On the reason for amending the draft document's article on appointing the president, Khatib said: The draft stipulated that the president be chosen by the dialogue and the dialogue committee. In view of the withdrawal of the main parties from the dialogue, it was decided to go back to the Constitution, which gives the Higher Security Council the right to appoint the president. This article was amended in accordance with the Constitution.

Commenting on Bouteflika's nomination for the presidency and then his withdrawal, Khatib said: Bouteflika agreed at first to become president and was given all the authority he asked for. But some parties and political forces objected to him, following the leak of his nomination to the press, because he does not stand for breaking with the past, which everyone was looking for.

He stressed that the parties and the people expressed full satisfaction with President Zeroual when it was publicly announced that he would be president because of his qualifications to lead the state.

On the contacts with the "banned" Islamic Salvation Front, Khatib said that these contacts are continuing and have achieved encouraging and fruitful results. He expressed his hope that during the next stage there will be positive steps to stop the wave of violence in the country.

Government Confirms FIS Contacts; Official Killed

LD0502151794 Paris France-Info Radio in French 1430 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] In Algeria, the authorities have confirmed that there have been contacts with leading representatives from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The two Islamist leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj are reported to have approved these high-level contacts.

Nevertheless, the violence continues in Algeria. The subprefect of Ouled Mimoun, south of Sidi Bel Abbes, was murdered on Wednesday [2 February]. He was murdered by unknown assailants as he went to work.

FIS Reportedly Plans To Escalate Armed Actions

PM0402145894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "After News of Differences Between Its Political and Military Leaderships, the Salvation Front Prepares To Escalate; No 'Gratis' Initiative for Zeroual"]

[Text] Jeddah—Sources close to the dissolved Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have confirmed that FIS supporters will escalate "armed action" against the Algerian authorities, a signal that the FIS is not prepared to offer the new President Major General Liamine Zeroual a "gratis initiative" under which it would suspend military operations. This new FIS position comes after news of differences between its political leadership and those responsible for armed action over contacts with the government.

The same sources expect the FIS' "serious" military escalation to be carried out soon by the FIS supporters who have joined the so-called "Islamic Salvation Army." They stressed that "information they received from inside [Algeria] indicates that the fighters are now in a strong position, having managed to close their ranks and secure large quantities of arms and continuous sources of supply." The sources believe that any "suspension of armed action would lead to a loss of the current zeal and drive and could lead to sharp differences in the ranks of the gunmen whom FIS' leading ulema had managed to unite."

An FIS member who left Algeria recently and wishes to remain anonymous for security reasons has stated that "the most important recent achievement was the containment of the dispute which occurred between Sa'id Makhloufi (one of the Armed Islamic Movement's leaders) and the FIS political leadership because Makhloufi had thought that the leadership was willing to make concessions unacceptable to him." He also said that "another achievement" was that "most members of the Armed Islamic Group [as published] have joined the Islamic Army, and those who have not officially done so are coordinating with the command of that army." He noted in this connection that the group no longer issues statements in its name, and he cast doubt on statements issued in its name abroad such as the statement claiming responsibility for the assassination of Cheik Mohamed Busulaymani, who was close to the Hamas Movement. FIS leaders abroad (Rabeh Kebir and Anwar Haddam) strongly condemned the assassination.

The appearance of a taped statement with the voice of Sa'id Makhloufi, a former officer in the Algerian Army and one of the FIS founders who leads an important part of the operations against the Algerian regime, criticizing the "Provisional National Council" headed currently by Cheik Abdelrazzaq Rejam, had raised fears of a possible serious split within the FIS.

It is now certain that by moving to escalate, the FIS is saying that it has no intention of offering President Zeroual a "gratis" initiative calling for the suspension of armed action, particularly as "the mujahidin have become a difficult factor that cannot be ignored in any future negotiations."

It is estimated that the armed Islamic movements have as members about 8,000 youths who have joined the military operations and are distributed over the countryside where they control areas not within the regime's grasp. They form large groups each in some cases exceeding 100 people controlled sometimes by military people who have deserted from military service. They have medium weapons such as antiaircraft guns and shoulder missiles. They mount operations against army camps, the police, and military convoys. A large number of them could take part in a single operation.

A second group consists of those who are involved in underground operations inside the cities. They go in small groups not exceeding 10 members each and they operate in absolute secrecy with some of them leading normal lives as a cover. Some of them only operate at night. Joining these groups is more difficult than joining the groups in the mountains. Desert detention camps are an important source of those who join this category.

Anwar Haddam, head of the FIS parliamentary mission, who lives in the United States and is a member of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, was the first to speak of the need for "the mujahidin to be taken into consideration in any serious negotiations between the regime and the FIS." He told AL-HAYAH the day before yesterday that "the leaders of the mujahidin are now an important part that cannot be ignored in the decisionmaking process within the FIS." One of the most prominent of these leaders is Abdelqadir Shabouti, known as "Major General Shabouti," a veteran who worked with the late Mustafi Bouway'li, the first man to declare armed mutiny in Algeria.

FIS sources have stated that the military operations have not at all been affected by the national dialogue conference or the appointment of Zeroual as head of state. They added that the Islamic Salvation Army had claimed responsibility for a number of operations last week, the most important of which was the ambushing of an army patrol in Boumerdas east of the capital, in which 12 soldiers were killed and the attackers seized the patrol's weapons. The Islamic Army also claimed responsibility for a number of operations carried out on 26 January, the day of the opening of the national dialogue conference. Among the most important of these operations were "the assassination of three policemen in Baraki, the assassination of an officer near the Constantine bridge," the assassination of four inspectors and an officer in el-Aghouat [as transliterated], an ambush for Major General Bakhouti in Warqala [as transliterated] (which he survived), the assassination of Farhat Sheybout, member of the Algerian Communist Party's Political Bureau in Jijel, and the "execution" of six people in the Taher area accused of collaboration with the police. FIS sources said that "these were killed to put an end to the informer phenomenon."

The sources said that the Armed Islamic Movement also claimed responsibility for the al-Sawma'ah operation in which 15 members of the "special forces" were killed in the area of Blida last Sunday and also for the assassination of Rashid Nefrirt, secretary general of "the Group for Culture and Democracy," last Monday.

Armed Islamic Group Claims Killing of 70 Rivals

NC0702065394 Paris AFP in English 0035 GMT 7 Feb 94

[All names as received]

[Text] Algiers, Feb 7 (AFP)—The radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has executed" 70 members from a rival Algerian fundamentalist movement, according to a GIA statement appearing here on Sunday.

In the statement, which has not been authenticated, the GIA said it had carried out the executions of members of the Islamic Armed Movement (MIA) without giving a precise date.

The statement was sent by fax, headed the "State of the Islamic Caliphate in Algeria" and dated February 5, 1994.

It said the killings had been carried out according to Koranic law, adding that the "masters of the political decision are the mujahedin."

The GIA has accused the MIA of trying to suppress its group and has described MIA leader Said Mekhloufi as a "traitor, and agent of the government services."

In a previous statement the GIA said it was "against all truce, all dialogue and all reconciliation with the powers" in place and threatened anyone taking part in talks with "the worst of deaths."

Meanwhile security forces announced Sunday that 13 armed Moslem militants were killed between Tuesday and Thursday in several regions of Algeria.

Six militants were killed Thursday in Oued Fregha on the northern border between Algeria and Tunisia, and two died in Mechta El Magahi 450 kilometres (279 miles) southeast of Algiers.

Three fundamentalists were killed in Oran in western Algeria on Wednesday, and two died Tuesday evening in a suburb of Algiers.

Earlier Sunday the Hilton hotel in Algiers closed its doors, the latest in a growing wave of foreign companies to suspend operations here because of continuing fundamentalist violence.

The hotel, which opened last August, decided to close for an unspecified period six days after the killing in the Casbah district of French cameraman Olivier Quemener, whose body was repatriated Sunday.

It also came three weeks after the assassination of a employee of the French consulate, Monique Afri. Both killings were blamed officially on Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Egypt

Government Seeking Apology for Israeli Remarks

NC0702085094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks, casting doubt on the ability of the Egyptian regime to control the internal situation and win the struggle with the Islamists, have angered the Egyptian authorities. The authorities have summoned Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan and handed him an official letter of protest, demanding an apology by his government.

Rabin's remarks came in a meeting with Israeli thinkers and writers the day before yesterday. Rabin said he is not sure Egypt could remain committed to the peace treaty should the "terrorist" groups take power. The Egyptian Government received detailed reports on Rabin's remarks from the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The Egyptian Labor Federation issued a statement in Cairo the day before yesterday calling on its members not to meet an Israeli Histadrut delegation and confirming the continuation of the Egyptian federation's boycott of its Israeli counterpart.

Mubarak Notes Sarajevo 'Massacre,' Other Issues

NC0602183294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has announced his approval of Defense Minister Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi's request to increase the capital of the Fighters Care Fund from 50 to 100 million pounds. He said that the fighters are among the sectors that deserve the state's care, noting that these funds do not come from the state's budget but from the Armed Forces National Projects Service Department.

The announcement came during President Mubarak's meeting with the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the central military zone.

President Mubarak arrived at the Military Sports Center in Manshiyat al-Bakri at 1005 today and was received by Defense Minister Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi; Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi; the commanders of the air, sea, and air defense forces; and Staff Major General 'Uthman Shahin, commander of the central military zone.

[Begin Mubarak recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Happy year to you. I am always pleased when I meet with our brothers and sons from the Armed Forces because I spent most of my life in the Armed Forces. I learned and was trained in the Armed Forces.

I had not thought of delivering a speech at today's meeting but I thought I should seize this opportunity to speak about issues and problems that concern you as a group of citizens and as an important and disciplined group of the people. I asked myself: What issues do our brothers and sons want to hear? I received several questions on local and foreign issues. I will speak to you frankly on every issue except those that affect the public interest, since I try not to enter into the latter's details at such a big gathering.

Speaking about local affairs, one question is: One of your excellency's instructions to the government is to pay attention to slums and to control them. Are there resources available for achieving this in the near future, especially given that it might be difficult to develop some of these areas? The slums issue began in the sixties and has continued to grow. People left the countryside for the cities, specifically Cairo and Alexandria. The problem grew and buildings were constructed without permission, without planning. Frankly, I could not pull down the slum areas under the previous conditions because, as you know, our economic situation in the early eighties was such that no funds were available. We did not even have resources. We could barely provide bread. You might remember that we held an economic conference in 1982 to see where we were going and what we were going to do about our economy, which is the people's livelihood. World prices rose sharply after the October 1973 war, including oil. Our resources from foreign currencies were meager and we could not pay the debt installments. Not only this, we could not even pay the price of wheat or for the citizens' basic requirements.

I said somewhere that in September 1990 we reached the stage where our foreign currency resources—from exports, oil, and tourism—did not exceed 5 billion, 4.5 billion, sometimes 6 billion [currencies not specified] while we were spending 10 billion in foreign currency. We borrowed. We bought wheat in installments to be paid over so many years. We reached the stage where we could not pay the installments. [end recording]

President Mubarak stressed that we paid major attention to the infrastructure because it was extremely necessary for agriculture, industry, and investments. He explained what has been achieved in the infrastructure field and stressed that unemployment would have doubled to 10 times what it is now had it not been for the infrastructure achievements.

The president explained the situation in Egypt when the economic reforms began and how the country succeeded in reaching a unique program through its discussions with the international financial establishments and the IMF, which no other country could attain. The program, he added, took into consideration the conditions of the low-income groups. The president added that this program was the bitter medicine that had to be taken to save the Egyptian entity and economy.

This was stated by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the Presidential Palace Press Office. He said that the president stressed that the economic reforms were a heavy burden and that the increase in prices was also a burden but were necessary for development. The president added: We had two choices: either to embark on the economic reform experiment or to avoid it, which would have led to a degree of deterioration that no one could predict. The president stressed that the only remaining danger now is the terrible population increase.

The head of the Presidential Palace Press Office added that the president affirmed that the economic reform program is on course and that we have been exempted from 30 percent of our debts, which will drop another percentage point in July.

The president stressed that this stage has (?hampered) the state's interest in the expanding slum areas. He said: After the reform we are able to look for a solution to this problem, proceed with improving living conditions, and develop the economy, especially if we manage to control the population increase.

President Mubarak touched on the sales tax, saying that there will be no price increase in the second stage of this tax, which will be during 1995-96. He said taxes are the state's right from those able to pay in favor of the ones who cannot.

He also explained the GATT, which allows free trade and services that reflect the interest of the higher purchasing countries and asserted that we ought to adjust ourselves and be ready to cooperate to face all possible consequences of this agreement.

The president said that at a time when the world is suffering hard economic conditions and soaring prices, some countries have begun to export terrorism to us. He affirmed that the terrorists who concentrate on striking at tourism as a huge source for the Egyptian economy have nothing to do with Islam, which renounces them. He described them as a handful of criminals and mercenaries and said that their interest is money and profiteering, referring to an attack on a mosque in Sudan yesterday in which 28 people were killed and over 100 worshipers were wounded [numbers as heard]. Criminals also used machine guns and hand grenades in attacking worshipers in a Sunni mosque in Pakistan.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that the president discussed corruption, saying that some people are exaggerating it to harm our reputation, something that happens in other countries and from which no society is free. He said that Egypt has less corruption than other countries and that the international phenomenon of corruption cannot be a justification for us. All corruption cases are investigated no matter who is involved.

The president noted the numerous rumors about corruption designed to cause confusion and defame the state. He affirmed that he personally inquires about all rumors and allegations and in most cases investigations have proved that they were merely rumors.

The president turned to the discussion of foreign issues, affirming their direct link with domestic affairs. He noted that we are living in a world where interests are interwoven and that Egypt's foreign relations affect its role and standing in the region. The president stressed that he is committed to a general principle that our relations should be good with all countries.

The president also discussed the balance of power in the world and the new world order, referring to the major changes. He affirmed the need for us to deal with the new situation and successive changes and that we should not despair.

He then referred to yesterday's heinous massacre in Sarajevo, when a mortar shell landed in the city's marketplace, killing over 60 people and wounding about 200 others. He said that the European countries have an obligation to end this tragedy from which the Bosnian people are suffering. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the major powers and the Security Council member states to end this tragedy.

President Mubarak said we have peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo and Somalia that are a symbol of the solidarity of an Islamic country with brothers in two other Islamic countries. He added that our Armed Forces are carrying out a first class humanitarian task in Somalia.

In his meeting with commanders, officers, and men of the Central Military Zone, the president dealt with the Middle East issue and the peace process. He noted that Egypt was the most courageous country to achieve peace. He said that had it not been for the role of the late President Anwar al-Sadat in his historic initiative that opened the door to all the region's countries, it would not have been possible to reach the current situation in the peace process.

He also discussed the Gaza-Jericho accord and Egypt's role in all phases, as well as its efforts with the United States during 1977-1993 to make it listen to the Palestinian voice.

The president stressed that difficulties remain on the road to peace, primarily the Israeli settlements that have gone from 40 small settlements in 1978 to 180 large ones scattered all over the Arab territories. He said Egypt has always been forthright in all its actions and policies and that there is still a long, complex way to go on the Palestinian issue, especially when a Palestinian (?administration is set up) and in light of subsequent dealings with humanitarian issues.

He affirmed that there will soon be a just solution to the Syrian issue, which we desire. Mubarak also dealt with Egypt's role in finding a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis, in which Egypt is helping as much as it can without intervening in Libya's decisionmaking.

Reaction Noted to Events in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Lawyers Union Denounce 'Massacre'

NC0702140694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—The Secretariat General of the Arab Lawyers Union strongly denounced the barbaric massacre committed by the Serb forces against Bosnia's Muslims in Sarajevo. It stressed that the massacre was the logical result of Europe's failure and U.S. reluctance to fulfill commitments toward areas of conflict.

In a statement today, the union said the massacre is consistent with undeclared intentions that are devoted to the ethnic liquidation and cleansing about which some countries are keeping silent. It also perpetuates several violations perpetrated by the Serb forces against innocent citizens, which were also ignored by the decisionmakers in the new world order.

The statement added that the massacre, which took place at the same time as the meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva, highlights the Serbs' complete disregard for international legitimacy and human rights.

Daily Urges No 'Spectators'

NC0702073194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0601 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR wonders whether the United Nations has become an establishment that only follows the orders of the major Western countries. It asks if the UN Charter has been amended to bless aggression against nations and human rights violations and reward aggressors.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that the United Nations, the Security Council, and the major powers are adopting an unbelievable position and that the massacres inflicted on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina over the past two years reveal that the international organization established in 1945 to defend security and prevent aggression is now only a scarecrow, like that which farmers set up to scare off crows.

The paper urges the Islamic countries not to remain spectators to this tragedy. The blood of a Muslim nation is being shed and its territory has become a human slaughterhouse.

End to Arms Embargo Urged

NC0602174794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq commentary: "The Human Conscience and the Call To Save the Bosnian People"]

[Text] Egypt has strongly denounced the awful massacre that the Serbian forces carried out against Bosnian Muslims in Sarajevo yesterday with the arrogance of force, killing about 70 people and wounding hundreds of others.

A Foreign Ministry statement called on the international community, represented by the Security Council, to act quickly to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable this nation, which is being subjected to brutal aggression from many sources that have more manpower and armaments, to defend itself according to its right under the UN charter and international law.

As part of Egypt's efforts to prompt the international community to recognize its moral responsibilities and halt this brutal series of massacres in which scores of Muslim civilians die every day, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held telephone contacts with the UN secretary general, a number of foreign ministers from OAU and European Union countries, and the United States to discuss ways of confronting this hostile escalation against the Bosnian people.

Proceeding from its moral obligation to stand by the Bosnian Muslim nation in its struggle against the forces of oppression and evil that aim to destroy it, Egypt urged the international community to reconsider the policies adopted to deal with the continuing aggression against the Bosnian people. These heinous massacres perpetrated by the Serb and Croat butchers all over Bosnia and this continuous and escalated bombardment of the nation, the arming of which is banned by international community resolutions and that has been robbed of its legitimate right to self-defense, confirmed the failure of these policies. Furthermore, these acts provide evidence that the talks held in a number of European capitals to find a solution to this tragedy have been a waste of time and will not make the international community support the Bosnian nation in the sovereignty of its territories and its right to life in peace and security.

We say once again that the human conscience is urged to act swiftly to save the Bosnian nation from the Serb and Croat massacres and the inaction of most of the world's governments that are contended with watching the violation of all ethical and human values in Bosnia. Human conscience is also urged to watch how the Serb and Croat butchers flagrantly challenge Security Council resolutions.

The latest brutal rocket shelling of Sarajevo came a few hours after the Security Council's strongly worded statement threatening economic sanctions against Croatia unless it withdraws its forces and military ammunition from central and south Bosnia within two weeks. It is the practical, military response of Serb and Croat murderers to the Security Council statement that called for respecting Bosnia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity as a member state of the United Nations and that warned against acts of ethnic cleansing against civilians in that country. It is a response full of arrogance, haughtiness, and disdain for UN resolutions.

Human history stresses the need to confront such expansionist, hostile ambitions against nations and to act quickly to contain these racist conflicts.

If the Bosnian nation's fate is to suffer these brutal massacres while the world debates how to end this tragedy, the least that can be done is for the Security Council to move swiftly to lift the arms embargo so that the Bosnian nation, in accordance with its legitimate right to self-defense, can defend its land, honor, and right to a free and dignified life.

Prime Minister Notes Peace Process, Other Issues

NC0502191994 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Feb 94 pp 14-18

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Can the idea of holding a national dialogue in April have any credibility without the participation of all the country's political forces?

[Sidqi] All the legitimate forces will take part in this dialogue, regardless of their inclination. Naturally, illegitimate forces are excluded from this dialogue and will not participate in it. The dialogue, which will open in April, will be on political, economic, and social issues. Therefore, as President Husni Mubarak said, all the national forces and legitimate parties will participate in it. The basic aim of the dialogue is to arrive at an agreement that will enable us to see the issue of security and stability in the right perspective. Stability is the foundation that will allow Egyptian society to advance in all fields. The national dialogue also aims to draw a scientific and comprehensive vision of Egypt's future in the coming century.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this classification of forces as legitimate and illegitimate mean that the Muslim Brotherhood will not take part in the national dialogue?

[Sidqi] As I just said, only the legitimate forces will take part. The Muslim Brotherhood is an illegitimate and illegal force. Besides, the Egyptian Constitution does not allow the formation of religious parties.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people have voiced the fear that the national dialogue would turn into an aimless ramble [maklamah]. These people say that change is, in essence, a matter for deeds, not words.

[Sidqi] They are wrong. Dialogue is the main course for finding the truth and improving reality. This is our aim; to better ourselves in everything: politics, economy, and social relations. We seek solutions to problems that we all recognize: education, health, and development, among others. Therefore, it is very useful to have a dialogue on these issues. It is possible for us to reach an agreement on a number of principles that will shed light on how to resolve these problems.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people are afraid that the dialogue will turn into a solo performance by the National Democratic Party [NDP] and its sympathizers.

[Sidqi] The dialogue will not turn into an NDP monologue. Representatives from all the national and party forces will be present. How can it turn into a solo performance? There is no doubt that the dialogue will be an opportunity to exchange opinions, formulate a comprehensive vision of our national priorities, and draw police guidelines. Egypt, as President Mubarak said, does not aim to blur the distinction between opinions but to uphold the principles and prerequisites of democracy.

[Al-Sa'id] Is terrorism one of the proposed subjects in the dialogue?

[Sidqi] Of course. It is a major issue. The call for dialogue is also an attempt to rally efforts to formulate a national action plan to support stability and development, and to strike at terrorism to uproot it completely. But, at the same time, we should not exaggerate the extent of terrorism. Such an exaggeration is not needed. It is true that there is terrorism; this is an undisputed fact. But I say that the terrorism movement in Egypt has never been and will never be similar to the movements in other countries. The criteria here makes the difference between the two. Terrorism here is within narrow limits when compared to other countries. The terrorists certainly have their instigators and backers abroad. We know of the remnants who have left Egypt and have gone to other countries.

[Al-Sa'id] The remnants that went to Afghanistan?

[Sidqi] They went to more than one country where they settled down, trained, and carried out their activities by communicating with their cadres in Egypt. The latter received their instructions from them to carry out their criminal acts against the state and its citizens.

[Al-Sa'id] Why do you not mention specifically the countries that support terrorism?

[Sidqi] We have exposed them and there is no need to mention them again. They are known forces that do not want stability and progress for Egypt but want our country to remain burdened by poverty. They are tools of destruction and sabotage.

[Al-Sa'id] Are they Sudan and Iran?

[Sidqi] I do not want to accuse a specific country and I do not want to assert anything. But there are very strong possibilities that there are people residing in some surrounding countries or in countries near us.

[Al-Sa'id] There are opposition voices which say that political reform is the basis for eliminating terrorism and is the main door to dialogue.

[Sidqi] What do they mean by political reform?

[Al-Sa'id] One aspect of political reform is the guarantee of honest elections.

[Sidqi] Elections are always honest in Egypt. The current laws ensure the honesty of elections and no one here can dispute our elections.

[Al-Sa'id] Some of these voices are also demanding the amendment of the Constitution and believe that this Constitution is not being applied and is merely ink on paper. From this comes the call to amend it so that it can conform to current conditions in Egypt.

[Sidqi] Who has made the Constitution merely ink on paper? We are living in a state that respects law and this means that the Constitution is respected and the law is respected. There is no distortion or bypassing of the law. I do not understand what they mean when they talk about the Constitution in the manner suggested by your question. As to the amendment of the Constitution, I say that the current one is completely suitable for Egypt's current conditions.

Tampering with the Constitution is not an easy matter. The above-mentioned Constitution was drawn up in 1971 and therefore it has been in existence for only 22 years. This is not long enough for judging and amending the Constitution. It is not reasonable for us to change the Constitution each period, otherwise the whole process will turn into chaos.

[Al-Sa'id] Terrorist operations have not been eliminated or contained yet, despite the enforcement of the emergency law. On the contrary, they have become a serious phenomenon threatening society.

[Sidqi] We cannot consider terrorist incidents a phenomenon. Egypt is more stable and secure than other states. If some wicked terrorist elements appear every now and then, they are a misled group unaware of Egypt's interests. They are elements who have rebelled against the situation, law, and legitimacy. They are trying to impose their deviant opinion and thought on others by force and with violence. This runs counter to the simplest rules of freedom and democracy, which are the pillars of the regime in Egypt. They are a group that must be confronted firmly and decisively. We cannot describe its actions as a phenomenon because the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people reject its unsound and illogical practices. The Egyptian people are among the most moderate people and adhere to their sound Islamic and Christian religious ideals.

[Al-Sa'id] However, more than one incident has shown that terrorism still exists, including the unsuccessful assassination attempt against you.

[Sidqi] The emergence of extremist groups that practice violence and terrorism is not confined to Egypt. There are terrorist groups in our region, Europe, and elsewhere. These groups lack sound logic, correct thought, and wisdom. Therefore, their attempts to impose their custodianship and ideas by terrorism and violence are confronted by the people and government. These groups must not be allowed to pose a threat to Egypt's security. We are all confident that terrorism has no future on our land. It will remain besieged and will be eradicated, God willing, because its elements are a small fugitive group that is motivated by a desire to destroy. God willing, they will disappear thanks to national consensus.

[Al-Sa'id] It is being said that confronting terrorism can be done without resorting to security measures, such as eliminating the shantytowns.

[Sidqi] We are using all security and legal methods, as well as development projects, to put an end to terrorism. We are implementing a comprehensive program to remove shantytowns in 11 governorates. We have adopted serious steps and have allocated 3.03 billion pounds to remove these shantytowns.

[Al-Sa'id] Some believe ideological dialogue can be held with these misled groups.

[Sidqi] There is a difference between extremist thinking and terrorism. Dialogue can be held with the first. However, dialogue with terrorism is useless. There can be no dialogue with terrorism because you cannot speak to someone who is aiming a gun at you. There can be no dialogue between two sides, one of which uses words while the other uses firearms. Is this possible? Of course not.

[Al-Sa'id] Speaking of corruption, some people accuse the government of ignoring the issue, especially when it affects some big names.

[Sidqi] We do not ignore any corruption case; we promptly refer it to prosecution. I stress here that we will not be lenient toward corruption; we will expose and pursue every corruption case no matter who is involved. President Mubarak's instructions are clear in this regard. Deviation from the right course may occur anywhere in the world, including Egypt. We and no one else can prevent it. This is why we have laws that combat deviation and treat people equally without discrimination between the big and the small.

[Al-Sa'id] The fact that the state's control authorities, such as the Administrative Control Organization, are affiliated with the Council of Ministers may raise concerns that the government colludes with those authorities to crush its adversaries and protect its friends.

[Sidqi] Had this been true, we would not have brought many big and resounding names to trial. All are equal before the law.

[Al-Sa'id] Like whom?

[Sidqi] There is no need to mention names!

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that corruption files are not opened selectively? Some say that while light is shed on some cases to discredit certain people, other cases remain on the shelf.

[Sidqi] I would like to say first that there are not that many corruption cases. We are against all kind of corruption, major, or minor. Everybody must be sure that the state is against any deviation from the right path. All the cases that came to light were discovered by the state services, such as the Administrative Control Organization, the intelligence services, state security, the public funds authority, and the central agency. Officials of the state's administrative service inform the government of any corruption case. All these agencies play their roles in full. I would like to draw your attention to a very important point here: People should not be considered guilty for mere suspicion. People have their entities and personalities. It is noted that some newspapers publish allegations to discredit public figures without any evidence against them. This, I believe, is encroachment on people's reputations. This is more like intellectual terrorism and a call to harm others wrongfully. If the government did all it can, referred corruption cases to courts irrespective of who is involved, and never interfered to affect the normal course of those cases, then we all must wait for the results of investigations so that innocent people are not condemned and defamed. It is a sin to wrong innocent people and condemn them on the basis of tendentious rumors. We are alert, and we do not remain silent over any corruption or deviation. We watch, follow, and pursue any corruption case regardless of who stands behind it. When suspicion about the Madinat al-Nasr millionaire grew and a citizen filed a complaint, we did not hesitate; we took prompt action.

[Al-Sa'id] There are many people demanding that the emergency law be lifted.

[Sidqi] The emergency law is for the public good, especially because Egyptian society faces the danger of terrorism, which must be confronted and uprooted. The emergency law is only applied to terrorists and drug dealers; it is the least that can be done to protect Egypt. Dangers to society posed by these terrorists require deterrence and decisiveness. The emergency law does not affect anyone's freedom or creed, nor does it affect the parties. The law is used against outlaws and, therefore, there is no fear from the emergency law because it cannot harm any innocent citizen.

[Al-Sa'id] But someone may ask why the emergency law exists. Although it has been in force since 1981, it has not contained or eradicated terrorism.

[Sidqi] Why should the emergency law bother anyone if it is applied only to terrorism and drugs, each of which is a damned disease that must be resisted with all possible means? The emergency law has not been used against any other party and has not undermined democracy. Had it not been for the democratic climate we are experiencing, the opposition voices would not dare to say one tenth of what they say now. As to the question of why the need for it, I say that we are in dire need of it to protect Egypt's stability and the lives of its citizens, and to secure its economy.

Once again, I ask why the alarm about the emergency law, which has not been used against any honest citizen, parties, or press, or to undermine democracy? There are no excesses in the application of the emergency law.

[Al-Sa'id] The opposition parties are part of the state's political system under the Constitution's Article 5, which considers the multiparty system to be the basis for the political regime in Egypt.

[Sidqi] Naturally, pluralism is the basis of the political system in Egypt and no one says otherwise.

[Al-Sa'id] But the parties do not sense this fact and feel that they are excluded from politics. They do not feel they are part of the political system and feel that the government is uneasy with the opposition, although it does not show it.

[Sidqi] How can they feel that they are not part of the political system with all the state's and ruling party's assurances that the opposition should indeed be part of the political system?

As a general rule, a genuine opposition is heeded, but still we find some opposition elements trying to portray everything in Egypt as very black. This is unreasonable and unacceptable because everything has two faces—beautiful and ugly, good and bad.

You saw some opposition papers recently reporting everything as bleak, which is untrue. Therefore, I say that the opposition parties are not separated from the political arena and they enjoy democracy in Egypt, which we see everywhere. We can see at the People's Assembly that the opposition enjoys the full right to speech and dialogue. The same applies to the Consultative Council, where the opposition takes more than its share of rights, and we do not go by the proportion criteria in allotting the majority and minority. The opposition parties receive every regard and respect, but the opposition should stick to objective opposition. It is not sensible for anyone to level accusations without evidence that the person is corrupt or bad. This is unlawful and I am very sorry about this situation. However, we deal with the opposition differently and I personally have numerous friends in the opposition parties, in al-Wafd, Labor, and other parties.

My criticism of the opposition is that it tarnishes people's images haphazardly; it tarnishes the image of everyone and the system, which is unacceptable.

[Al-Sa'id] People complain about high prices. They are afraid these prices will increase in the next few months.

[Sidqi] There will be no price increases for any commodity, including gasoline, in the coming period. Prices have increased recently but they will not increase in the future. I want to say that we do not interfere in raising prices. Part of the reason for the price increases was a correctional measure and the other part was higher production costs, especially of imported goods. We are a part of the world market. Matters related to prices in world markets affect us eventually.

[Al-Sa'id] What do you mean by saying that part of the reason for the higher prices was a correctional measure?

[Sidqi] The prices that prevailed in the past did not reflect the real cost or the real value of the commodities. Our major problem is that for a long time we have been behaving like an ostrich, which buries its head in the sand. While prices were rising in the whole world, Egypt was putting a "brake" on prices through subsidies. Therefore, a collapse was going to happen if prices remained as they were. In other words, commodities were subsidized and sold at less than their real cost. It was necessary to reconsider this policy of subsidies, the continuation of which would have emptied the state's coffers.

[Al-Sa'id] Some call for rationalizing public expenditures to curb government spending.

[Sidqi] There is no government overspending. Spending is being done within the narrowest limits. Government expenditures have been squeezed to the minimum.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your explanation of the discrepancy in the views of Egyptian officials regarding GATT? The ministers of economy, planning, and foreign affairs have different views on GATT. I ask: Why this discrepancy in views, given that the government has participated in the GATT negotiations over the past eight years?

[Sidqi] Yes, Egypt has participated in the GATT negotiations for eight years. I see no differences on GATT.

[Al-Sa'id] The foreign minister's statements look as if we have been surprised by GATT, as if it has been a shock to us, and as if it will negatively affect us as a developing country.

[Sidqi] I do not believe this has happened. It is true that some statements have given this impression. What I say is that GATT has good privileges for the developing countries. At the same time it has some negative effects. Every official looks at the subject from a different angle. This in itself is a healthy phenomenon and not a discrepancy. It is not correct to say GATT is all good or all bad.

[Al-Sa'id] But is it more negative or positive?

[Sidqi] GATT will definitely affect us in the short run, but not in the medium or long run because the state opted to be part of the world economy. Therefore, we must respect and observe international systems. Anyway, GATT will not remain GATT; as of 1 January 1995, it will be named the World Trade Organization (WTO). The GATT that will be signed in the next few weeks will liberate foreign trade throughout the world. This means GATT will cover not only commodity trade, but also trade in services, copyrights, and patent rights. The last two are new to Egypt, and perhaps they are more worrying than commodity trade.

The new system will therefore have a much wider scope than that of GATT, which covers only commodity exchange. I am not worried, although I have to take several precautions in the short run. Why am I not worried? Because our policy of liberating the national economy largely conforms with the new trends in the organization of international trade.

[Al-Sa'id] How long can our products stand fast in the face of foreign competition?

[Sidqi] GATT will give our products new opportunities. Talk about positive or negative impacts is linked to our ability to compete and improve our production. As a developing country, therefore, we must work to increase our ability to compete. We are able to have good and competitive products.

[Al-Sa'id] When the unified tax bill was discussed in the People's Assembly, you were criticized for threatening to resign if the bill was not approved.

[Sidqi] I did not threaten to resign. I only said that if the bill was not passed, we would withdraw it.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this not mean the confiscation of democracy? The bill should have been given enough time for discussion.

[Sidqi] The unified tax bill took more time for discussion than any other bill. Indeed, the bill itself is not new. The bill was issued in 1978 upon the People's Assembly's recommendation; it was then called the tax justice law. In 1980, I chaired a committee to work out the bill on the basis of a unified tax. Several years later, I presented the bill to the finance minister, and it was similar to the current unified tax bill. In 1986, we also discussed the possibility of its implementation.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you are committed to the bill?

[Sidqi] The bill is one of the fairer and best laws, but regrettably some people regarded it from the beginning as additional taxation, which is not true. We intended the bill to include and incorporate all taxes and general revenue in one tax, and the law is fair and takes low incomes into consideration.

[Al-Sa'id] But the bill's exemption limit is not satisfactory.

[Sidqi] This is just a social expression and there are many other countries that do not offer exemption on family burdens.

[Al-Sa'id] But what about the talk that it was the United States that drafted the bill and that it was imposed on you by international financial institutions?

[Sidqi] This is baseless because the law is 100 percent Egyptian. We embarked on it a long time ago and it has nothing to do with the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Middle East market, for the idea and feasibility of which you formed a committee of many ministers? What are your conclusions?

[Sidqi] We are examining not the Middle East market but the current circumstances that resulted from recent political developments in the region. These are the Palestinians and the Gaza-Jericho accord, Jordan and the understanding about a declaration of principles, and Syria, which is on its way to reaching an understanding. All this will have gigantic effects on the region in all aspects, particularly in the economic sphere.

Therefore, the committee was set up to follow these developments and measure their effects on all aspects, especially on the economic side.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your own view on the Middle East market and on the possibility of including Arab countries in it?

[Sidqi] Like it or not, we are bound to adjust to new circumstances and we cannot distance ourselves from them because they are a reality. Failure to deal with reality is a grave mistake. We must adapt to reality and adjust our economy and ties to be in line with this fact. Today we cannot exclude certain facts; Israel exists and we must normalize ties with it as much as possible. Large world economic groups exist—NAFTA, Southeast Asia, and the European Union. We also must go in the same direction.

[Al-Sa'id] Concerning foreign policy, what are the main lines of Egypt's foreign policy?

[Sidqi] Two main lines are peace and development and they are integrated.

[Al-Sa'id] What about our relations with other countries?

[Sidqi] Our relations are excellent with all world countries, except a country or two, and this is no problem.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your assessment of the U.S. role in the region?

[Sidqi] We cannot deny that the United States has become the sole superpower in the world following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Therefore, it would be illogical on my part to deal with the region and the world without realizing or taking this new situation into account. The United States is now the sole superpower. It has influence all over the world. It is playing a role in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa. I must have full and good relations with it. Thank God, our relations with the United States are very good.

[Al-Sa'id] Can the United States put pressure on you to adopt certain policies toward regional problems?

[Sidqi] No one puts pressure on us. Our decisions emanate from our willpower and not the willpower of others. We depend on ourselves in making decisions that do not antagonize the world. The pivots of our policy are peace and development. I believe peace was rejuvenated in the region only when the United States showed interest in it. It is true that the superpowers were represented in the past by the Soviet Union and the United States. The situation has changed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which drowned in its own problems. The only superpower in the world now is the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is in the intensive care unit.

[Sidqi] We view the agreement as a step toward a comprehensive, permanent, and just peace in the Middle East. It is a step on the road to peace. We hope that the gap between the Palestinians and Israel will be bridged in a way that will lead to the honest and accurate implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington in September.

[Al-Sa'id] But Israel does not want to implement the agreement honestly and accurately.

[Sidqi] The negotiator always keeps some "cards" to himself. However, if Israel wants to live in the region, it must normalize relations with its neighbors in general and the Palestinians in particular. It is in the interest of all parties for peace to prevail in the Middle East.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel deliberately speaks about unilateral deals with one party without the other and looks forward to measures that primarily safeguard its security without caring about the security of the Arab parties.

[Sidqi] Let it be known that the basis of any peace is the return of the Arab territories Israel occupied in 1967 to their owners. This has been acknowledged by the international community in an almost unanimous manner. I believe UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the starting and reference points. Since the peace conference began in Madrid in October 1991—and even the efforts that preceded it—these two resolutions have been the cornerstone of any just and comprehensive settlement in the region. Resolution 242 is clear regarding the need for the exchange of land for peace and the inadmissibility of the seizure of the land of others by force. President Clinton affirmed this during the Geneva summit with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Clinton affirmed his determination to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you evaluate the al-Asad-Clinton summit in Geneva on 16 January?

[Sidqi] It was undoubtedly a tremendous step that gave impetus to the peace process. It also helped clarify positions. The statements to journalists by Presidents Clinton and al-Asad showed clearly that the summit produced positive results. But these could not appear overnight. We will see these results gradually in light of the current Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. The results of the Geneva summit will affect all negotiating tracks. The results of the meetings between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin must also affect the Arab-Israeli talks.

[Al-Sa'id] How emphatically can we say that this year can bring peace to the Middle East and to the domestic front?

[Sidqi] Domestic peace, praise be to God, is at hand. The incidents that take place in the country are only individual ones. I stress this although I myself could have been one of the victims, but I am not really worried because of these incidents.

I believe that before the year ends, God willing, we will have put things on their right course. The state's arm is strong and able to eradicate terrorism.

As regards peace in the Middle East, I say that this year, God willing, will usher in a new era toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and the attainment of the full rights of the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. Each party must be given its rights. Arab territory will return to its rightful owners. Neither Israel nor any other country in the region can live in peace and stability unless all pending issues concerning Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians are resolved on the basis of a land- for-peace exchange.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you not feel annoyed with the persistent criticism of government policies in daily press caricatures? Does this not indicate a loss of government prestige?

[Sidqi] This never annoys me. I only feel annoyed when people are harmed as individuals. Criticizing policies is no problem; different views do not disturb cordial relations. One feels annoyed when comics or jokes harm people as individual persons with independent entities, values, and beliefs. A slanderous caricature may disturb one for an hour or two, but not more; one has no time to be annoyed day and night. Political criticism is acceptable any time and from any person, whether a government or an opposition reporter. I absolutely do not feel hurt.

Libya

Col al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech in Misratah

LD0602132094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1927 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Speech by brother leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Misratah on 2 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. May God make your evening a good one. I would like first of all to thank you for providing a second chance to meet in Misratah. I am very grateful to you for your invitation, which I received when I was in Sirte the other day. [passage omitted]

We are now in a new confrontation. Confrontations are the same, but the means and weapons may vary. Today, as we were in the recent past, we are confronting the same enemy. We have the same people, the same nation, and the same religion confronting the same enemies, which are the West, Christianity, imperialism, colonialism, whether it was in 1912, 1911, 1915, or now. We are in a new confrontation. It is beneficial to browse through our history and pause before the sacrifices made by our forefathers and our families. [passage omitted].

Brothers, it is very important to stop before these lessons, the lessons of our past history and the heroism of our forefathers and their sacrifices, because they represent our provision to face up to the new confrontation. It is very important. Important in the Libyan information approach, important in the Libyan educational curriculum and important even in family discourse and the club chatter and everywhere we are. [passage omitted]

Until now [al-Qadhdhafi pauses, interrupted by crowd chanting] ...look at the Americans and the West. Their calculations now are based on that the Libyan people have been spoiled and their demands have increased; luxury goods have become necessities. The Libyans have become accustomed to things they did not know before. They have become used to canned food and fashion and European and Western things. Now when oil exports become less and imported things decrease, the Libyans will comply with our [the West] orders and accept the new world order, what they term as international legitimacy, which is the legitimacy of force: the West is strong and the others should comply. This is impossible. [passage omitted]

Before the battle, the enemy carries out preliminary actions to weaken his adversary. When there are two armies fighting against each other and two countries fighting against each other, before the firing of machine-guns and the use of aircraft (?which may be easy for the braves) begin the battle, there is another action which is the dangerous action—an action that paves the way for victory in the military battle. It is a psychological, propagandist, economic and political action. This is a dangerous action, because you have to gain spies from the enemy; you have to recruit them. You have to infiltrate the enemy's front. You have to weaken the morale of the enemy. You have to run bad propaganda which the enemy may believe; your agents have to spread that. This is very dangerous. You have to be aware that you are facing this weapon.

Now we are not facing aircraft or missiles, etc. This may be easy; it could possibly be easy. No matter how many missiles may be launched, an aircraft carrier cannot enter our desert; it will stop when the water ends. Missiles constitute a terrorist action which has never forced a people to leave their land; it never put an end to a nation. The important thing is that we should understand this. I know that your morale is high, and that you are ready; this is great. But the important thing is that we should understand at this meeting some of the important things.

You are not facing aircraft carriers, or missiles, or guns. What I want to say is that a battle could be better. A military battle must come to an end; it does not last long. They cannot land on our territory. No matter how long the battle may go on, we have the fate of our land in our hands. In the end we will evict them. But the battle which is being fought now and the weapon which you are now facing—the weapon which the enemy has begun to use—is neither the machine gun nor the rifle. It is silent weapon. It is a weapon which targets morale. I will tell you what these weapons are. [2-minute break in audio reception].

Heresy is another weapon, like recruitment and treason. Now we hear about the Takfir and Hijrah group, the Da'wah, the Jihad, and al-Fatah—and so on and on. Everything invented in religion is heresy, and every heresy is a deceit, and those who adopt deceit will rest in hell. [passage omitted] This is a dangerous weapon; this is a dangerous stratagem to destroy the Arabs and Islam—these Islamic parties.

The plan was hatched in India, Afghanistan, and Iran. They taught people and recruited them and established schools. They called one Da'wah, another was called The Jihad, another they called The Takfir and the Hijrah, another they called The Tahrir, The Brothers, etc. They told them to enter the Arab countries and cause the Muslims to blaspheme and fight each other. [passage omitted]

Heresy is a weapon useful to America, the Israelis and Europe. They are all hoping that the Arab nation will be fragmented and that the Arabs will fight each other using heresy—Muslim brothers, the Atonement and Flight, the Islamic Call and the Muslim Vanguards—exactly as you have been witnessing in Egypt and Algeria.

Some three thousand have died in Algeria. Every day somebody dies exactly like it used to be during the war of liberation, when the Algerians were fighting the French. Even the policeman who used to protect you in the street can no longer do so. Someone might just come up to him screaming: There is no God but Allah; God is great, before knifing him. How can anyone say such and do such a thing to a soldier who is a Muslim. But if you ask, however, why did he have to do it, he will say this is what he was taught. And if you ask him who taught you this? He will say: I was taught by a Muslim who came from Sudan or from Jordan. But when they arrest the teacher, who is from Sudan or from Jordan, and ask him how did you learn this? He will say I was taught by an Afghan, an Iranian, or an Indian Muslim. Therefore, this must be a conspiracy and a foreign invasion.

Heresy is something hard to comprehend. You should, O brothers, warn your children against it. And in this you must not show any compassion, because it is a very serious matter indeed if the number of those people gets bigger. They might then arm themselves with knives, swords, and weapons and begin to slaughter anyone who happens to be in their way.

One of them has killed his uncle, the brother of his father who was taking care of him. They told him: In order to prove that you are with us you must kill your uncle because he is an unbeliever and a police officer. You must kill him to prove to us that you are one of us. They gave him a hunting rifle; he waited in darkness for his uncle and shot him dead. Is this Islam? No, this would be madness if everyone has to kill his father, brother, and neighbor. But such a thing is taking place in Egypt and Algeria every day. People are killing their brothers, fathers, uncles, neighbors and sons.

We must be vigilant to this Zandaqa [Islamic movements—the current fundamentalism]. This is a dangerous weapon. The Americans said that the Arabs would be fragmented from inside. [passage omitted] They have tried it, and in Algeria people are killing one another, and in Egypt people are killing one another, while the West and the Jews laugh at this Islam, this kind of Islam that has succeeded in dividing people. They have succeeded in mobilizing an Islam and are using it to fragment the Arab nation and destroy the real Islam. You must be aware of this. You must be conscious of this conspiracy.

This is yet another weapon. When they recruit somebody to the Zandaqah movement, they have recruited a spy. What is amazing is that they do not come to you and say: We want you to fragment the Arab nation, to be against pan-Arabism, to fragment Islam. They do not say to you: We are recruiting you; Afghanistan is behind the Zandaqah movement, and America and Israel are also behind it. No. They come to you and use Islam, in the mosque and say: There is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet. They say to you: This is wrong, little by little, until they bring you under their control and make you capable of killing your own uncle.

Thus the battle now begins at home as I have already said. You must be vigilant, starting at home. Everyone must watch his children. Their teacher could be a Zindiq [an Islamic fundamentalist] who has come from abroad; a doctor, if he has come from abroad. You know he has treated your child, your neighbor, your kinfolk. Perhaps while treating them he gave them information little by little. Search and examine any books brought home by your child or somebody else, see whether they are very old books on Zandaqah or not. [passage omitted].

When faced with a Zindiq, have no pity or mercy toward him. He must be finished, really. The Zandaqah is an extremely serious sickness, and he who carries this disease must be finished. For he who likes Islam, Islam is clear: Read the Koran, give us a lesson from the Koran, a lesson in religion, in morals; lead us in prayers, call for prayers, teach us and you are welcome. But if you set up a party among us, in secret, and you say: Kill each other, and others are infidels, then never. [passage omitted]

From now on, everyone must be vigilant to their families, their children. Islam is clear. If somebody wants to observe religious rules, he is free to do so. But the movements I have mentioned to you, they have knives, guns, pistols, bombs and America is behind them. All the leaders of the Zandaqah movement are to be found in Germany, America, Britain, and France. All the movements you are hearing about in Egypt, Algeria, Syria, and Tunisia, and those who were members of the Libyan Islamic Brotherhood movement, you have seen them, they are all in America, Britain, France, and Germany. Western intelligence is funding them.

What kind of Islam is an Islam funded by Christianity, the Christians, and the West? Is this Islam? Is this reasonable Islam, funded by the West, funded and encouraged by their intelligence services? Is this Islam? We do not want an Islam whose paymaster is America. We do not want this sort of Islam.

Another weapon is drugs. Orders were given by America and the Western states to the Israelis to plant hashish in occupied Palestine, export it secretly to the Arab countries, dump it on the shores of the Arab countries from Egypt to Morocco in return for billions of dollars paid by America and the Western states as a compensation to the Israelis for planting hashish. America is however fighting hashish everywhere in the world, and is prepared to go to war against any state planting hashish, except the Israelis. Why? Because the hashish in occupied Palestine is meant for the Arab youths, for the Arab countries, to lull the Arab nation. You must be vigilant to this. Brothers, this is not a matter for the law or the police. It is a matter for the family, a matter of education. You are all shepherds and every shepherd is responsible for his community. Every one must look after his children and family. [passage omitted]

As I have said, if tomorrow something wrong appears in Misratah, it will affect the morale of us all, it will affect the morale of Libya and the Arab nation. They will say here is an important city, a Mujahid city upon which we rely that has come out in angry demonstrations about the sewage, for example, or angry about housing or angry about petrol, or heresy appeared in it. You must be conscious of these things. I have spoken to the people in Tripoli, al-Zawiyah, Misratah, Benghazi and Darnah. There are some cities that should be jealous about the reputation of Libya. Be aware and do not let the enemy gloat over our misfortune. Persevere. If the electricity supply is interrupted for a time or public utilities or transportation are disrupted in a city such as Misratah, you must persevere and do not complain, because this will be very important to Libya's reputation before the West. [passage omitted]

People in places and cities other than those I have mentioned can be cross. If something is in shortage, they have the right to be cross. However, we in the cities I have mentioned have obligations to avert the enemy's gloating over our misfortune and because of our past history and our reputation we have to endure. However, first of all nothing wrong will happen, God willing. I am telling you this only to remind you. May nothing wrong happen at all and may everything move forward and progress. However, these are probabilities. When something happens in Misratah, we should not be cross.

All the things I have mentioned come and go. Take poverty, rain, money, houses, pavements, streets, homes and animals, they all come and go. These are things that can be good at times and bad at another. We must not let our future rely on them nor distort our history. [passage omitted]

Brothers, you should be aware of these issues. This is the confrontation: high morale, mobilization, anger and popular revolution. These should be translated into a material action on Libyan land which proves the will of confrontation and convinces the enemy that these people are determined to live and to live free. This is what will make them retreat. This is what made the enemies retreat. But if we only talk and then put our hand to them and beg them for a dollar, or trade in currencies, or smuggle medicine, smuggle food products, smuggle Libyan products, trade in the Libyan dinar, ask them to give us their canned foods, or ask them to give us their cigarettes or their drugs, they will laugh at us. They will say: These people only talk, but in the end they put out their hands to us and beg. We should reject this. [passage omitted]

The last subject is concerned with the family of Ja'akah. First of all, you are aware that there is someone with the name of Ja'akah; however, I do not know his first name. We heard the Americans say that they would give 1 million American dollars, 300 Libyan dinars [as heard], to anyone who would give them information about who brought down the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie.

Ja'akah used to work in Malta; he went over to the Americans and told them give me the 1 million dollars, I have information for you. They told him: All right, just give us the information. They kept him as a prisoner at the American intelligence; they did not, of course, give him the $1 million or anything else. He is still under arrest at the American intelligence. They asked him: What information have you got? He told them: That plane was brought down by such and such person who used such and such thing. He concocted a story; the story they are now repeating. They are saying that they have confirmed information, but they have only Ja'akah as a witness.

If they have a trial abroad, they will bring him to face [the accused] to whom he will say: Yes, you did bring it down; you put the case aboard and this and that. You did so because you wanted revenge. The Libyans wanted to avenge the raid of 1986; they wanted to take their revenge on Britain and America who killed their children. He will say now they have killed your children with such a bombing. They wanted to hit two birds with one stone; they dealt a blow to America and Britain at the same by bombing one plane which they brought down over Lockerbie, a British town, he will add.

He said the Libyans did so to avenge the raid. The Americans and the British have believed his story; they are trying to convince the world with such a story by using Ja'akah. Ja'akah is now with the American intelligence; he will lose his life... [pauses] his liberty forever. He will always remain under their control; they will never release him.

We started to ask who was Ja'akah? We were told Ja'akah was someone from Suk al-Jumu'ah, and suddenly everybody started crying this is very bad news for Suk al-Jumu'ah. Why is the latter involved in such a scandal? Why did that someone from Suk al-Jumu'ah put Libya in the mouth of a cannon? Why did that someone from Suk al-Jumu'ah create such problems for Libya? Was he a spy?

As soon as Suk al-Jumu'ah heard such a news they were angry. They said: We must destroy whoever tries to embarrass us; this one is a spy and we must set fire to his house and farm; we must destroy the houses of his family. They had a meeting, then I went to see them in Saradiq. I told them, O brothers, before you start destroying and setting fire to things, let us hear their story. Let them come and explain. So they came and said: We are the family of Ja'akah. We asked them does this one belong to you? They said yes, he is our son. His father came and made a speech which you have all heard. He said that anyone could take his [son's] life; anyone could kill him and that he will kill him, if he finds him. He added: We, his family, his father and close family, will kill him if we find him, because he is an agent who has harmed us.

However, his uncle read to us a report that Ja'akah was in an institution for mental illnesses. His testimony will, therefore, not be valid in a court of law. Had he been a sane person, he would not have been a spy against his country nor would he have harmed it like this for $1 million. He must be insane. That is how his uncle construed it.

I remember that people went after them and tried to take them apart. Had it not been for the guards, they would have been killed. We told the people: Please do not touch them; they have washed their hands of him. However, they told me that this family was not from Suk al-Jumu'ah; it came from Zawiyah al-Mahjub. Once the people at Zawiyah al-Mahjub heard the story they said: If there is any treason in Zawiyah al-Mahjub, we will have to do what Suk al- Jumu'ah would have done. We must find this family in order to destroy it and burn it. And you were told about the feelings of the people over there some time ago by that Haj [someone in the tent].

Now, as soon as they heard the story, they went over to Suk al-Jumu'ah and contacted the family of Ja'akah who told them that there was no relation with between them. They told them that the spy came from, in fact, the Ja'akah family in Suk al-Jumu'ah. The Ja'akah here has nothing to do with that Ja'akah. The only thing they shared was the name. Ja'akah was a first name here and not a family name like in Zawiyah al-Mahjub.

That is it, things are now clear. The day before yesterday the population of Gmatah sent an emissary to me and said: We heard that the people of Zawiyat al-Mahjub said that this Ja'akah family is from Gmatah, but the family in Zawiyat al-Mahjub has the surname of al-Jurushi. Al-Ja'akah is a name, but the surname is al-Jurushi. Now the al-Jurshi family has had martyrs and mujahidin. And indeed as the emissary showed us, this family is a family of mujahidin and martyrs, and surely it would not do anything wrong.

Now the population of Gmatah is angry and they said: If we find that the family of this spy Ja'akah is in Gmatah we will burn and destroy it. Naturally, this is in one way disturbing, but this is also very useful. The Libyan people have now laid down a rule, neither a written law nor a decision, all the Libyan people have laid down a rule which says: Treason will be hunted down, besieged and destroyed. They have reached the point where they might have to burn families to death, destroy homes. This is a frightening matter which we may be able to prohibit, but in fact no one can prevent it. They said to me: Even if you install guards around a treasonous family, we will consider the guards as traitor themselves and we will burn them. If thousands of people storm a house, who can stop them. Neither Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, nor police nor anyone can do so. If people attack treason, by God I will not be able to touch them, even if they burn down a house or burn a family to death. Now, thanks be to God, treason is indeed besieged. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Armed Group Attacks Mosque in Omdurman

10 Reported Killed

EA0402195294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry]

[Text] An armed group whose number is estimated at five individuals has carried out a wicked act of aggression at a mosque in the Quarter One, at al-Thwarah, in Omdurman, during Friday prayers. The incident resulted in the death of 10 people and in various injuries to others, some of whom are in serious condition. The aggressors fled.

Initial reports indicate that foreigners are among them. The police have managed to arrest one of the suspects. The police and security forces are continuing their efforts to arrest the criminals and uncover the dimensions of the incident.

The Interior Ministry hereby calls on honorable citizens to cooperate with the security organs in reporting the criminals and whoever is suspected of participating in this regrettable incident.

It would also like to reassure honorable citizens that the ministry has taken the necessary measures to preserve the security and safety of citizens and to state that the minister of the interior is personally supervising the follow-up on the situation and all other measures.

Finally, the ministry would like to extend its warmest condolences to the families of the dead. The ministry prays for God's mercy on their chaste souls. It wishes the injured a speedy recovery, the statement concludes.

Security Forces Hunt for 3 Suspects

LD0502175794 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry]

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Interior calls on all citizens to aid the security forces in the search for the following persons whose complication [as heard] in the tragic crime which took place in the mosque of Quarter One of al-Thawrah residential area has been proven beyond doubt. [passage omitted]

It has also been discovered that the abovementioned suspects lived in house no. 671 of Quarter One of al-Thawrah residential area. They left this house at 1.30 pm on Friday, 4 February, 1994, carrying two beds, a bicycle, books and clothes in a Hilux Toyota model 1981. Anyone who sees the above-mentioned suspects or has any information about them is requested to notify the nearest police station.

3 Attackers Reportedly Killed

EA0502210394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the interior minister, issued a statement a few moments ago about developments in the evil aggression by gunfire against worshipers in the mosque of the town Quarter One at al-Thawrah in Omdurman as well as later developments in the incident.

He made it clear that the joint efforts of the interior minister, the people's Armed Forces, the general security and the citizens had made it possible to establish the identity, descriptions, and names of the criminals. He added that investigations had not ceased since the incident took place.

[Words indistinct] in the three towns [Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum north], clarifying that after the broadcasting of the statement on the identities of the criminals late this afternoon, the criminals moved with the intention of fleeing after they had been exposed, but the different security organizations were waiting for them. There was an exchange of gunfire as a result of which three of the criminals were killed.

They are: 'Abd-al-Baqi Yusuf and Yasir Muhammad Ali from West Africa. The third was wounded. He is Muhammad Abdullah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khilayfi from Arab North Africa. He was taken to hospital.

The minister of the interior said that documents had been discovered and confirmed the dimension of this conspiratorial [word indistinct] incident which our people and their peaceful traditions (?do not accept). His Excellency commended the vigilance of the citizens and their cooperation with the security organs which helped capture the criminals.

Casualty Toll Rises to 36

AB0602192394 Dakar PANA in English 1553 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (PANA)—The Sudanese interior minister, Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammed Husayn, said on Sunday that there was no connection between gunmen who assaulted a mosque in the Sudanese capital and the Takfir and Hijra Islamic fundamentalist organization. He told a press conference in Khartoum that investigations so far have revealed no link.

Takfir and Hijra Islamic group first originated in Egypt during the Sadat era and was famous for terrorist activities. The members regarded all Moslems of today as "infidels."

Husayn said the death toll in the attack on worshippers at the Khartoum Ansar Souna mosque on Friday had risen to 16 with 20 injured. The motive of the gunmen is still not known. He said two of the suspected gunmen, who were West Africans, have been killed in a shootout with security forces. The third suspect, a Moroccan whom he identified as Muhammad Abdullah al-Khilayfi, was injured.

Husayn said the gunmen, who were originally three, first attacked a police station at Umbadda neighbourhood, injured two policemen and took five Kalashnikov rifles and a Yugoslav gun. They seized a pick-up truck from a civilian at gunpoint outside the police station and drove back home where they collected their personal effects and headed for the mosque. Husayn said before they reached the mosque, the gunmen neutralised a police station along their way to make their operation smooth. The minister said during a shootout on Saturday with the security forces who had tracked them down, a fourth person, a Yemeni, appeared with the group.

The Yemeni and the Moroccan, Muhammad Abdullah al-Khilayfi, were critically injured and cannot be interrogated at the moment. The minister said the security agencies are also holding a Palestinian student for suspicion of involvement in the massacre. He added, however, that interrogation so far has not linked him to the massacre.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences

EA0602190894 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (SUNA)—The Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the first of September revolution in the Jamahiriyah, has expressed his country's concern over the incident at the mosque at locality [al-harah] One in Omdurman's al-Thawrah quarter last Friday [4 February], when armed foreigners fired at worshippers in the mosque.

A responsible source at the Republican Palace said that al-Qadhdhafi had asked the Sudanese Embassy to convey his warmest condolences to the families of the victims of the incident.

Ministers Receive Iraqi Agriculture Minister

JN0402193794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (INA)—Todau, Agriculture Minister Dr. Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi met here separately with Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, Sudan's minister of economic planning and investment, and Salah al-Din Karrar, minister of energy and mining.

At the two sessions, the minister said Iraqi energy and technical and scientific expertise in the areas of petroleum and processing and agricultural industries is available to help the development plans of brotherly Sudan.

The minister observed that Iraq and Sudan maintain extensive relations and the two peoples are bound by brotherly ties and pan- Arab outlooks. He recalled the pan-Arab, honorable stand of the Sudanese people alongside their Iraqi brothers as they stood up to the Iranian aggression and during the immortal Mother of Battles.

The three ministers stressed the need to continue to work for still greater cooperation in the industrial, oil, and energy areas in the best interests of Iraq, Sudan and the Arab nation.

The minister of agriculture is in Khartoum for meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Sudanese Committee. (endall) 041705 ah/gerrard/kh KH150402.661 04/1942

Kuwait

Cabinet Condemns Sarajevo Massacre, Supports U.S. on Iraq

LD0702013994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2215 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Feb—The State of Kuwait tonight strongly denounced and condemned the savage massacre perpetrated by the Serb forces against innocent civilians in Sarajevo yesterday, which left a large number of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina dead or wounded.

Kuwait reaffirmed its support and backing of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its readiness to receive more of the sick and wounded to offer them medical care. This was stated at a meeting of the council of ministers held tonight under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and council of ministers chairman.

In a press statement after the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil said that the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers had called on the UN Security Council's member countries, the Islamic Conference Organization, and all the international organizations and bodies to intervene immediately to stop the genocidal operations to which the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were being subjected and to take the necessary measures to end that regrettable and tragic situation.

The council of ministers expressed its confidence and satisfaction at the U.S. stance, expressed in a report submitted by U.S. President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Congress, regarding the strict conditions that the Iraqi regime must implement [tanfidhiha] for any easing of the sanctions. Topping the list of these conditions was the release of POW's and hostages, recognizing the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border, and respecting Kuwait's independence and sovereignty.

The council stressed that the U.S. stance was identical to that of the international community in its insistence on making the Iraqi regime yield to UN resolutions, forcing it to respect international law, and aborting all its attempts to have the siege lifted until all the Security Council's resolutions accepted after the cease-fire in the Kuwait liberation war were implemented.

Minister al-Dakhil said that the council of ministers approved a draft law on adding a new paragraph to Article 7 of Emiri Decree 15 of 1959 regarding the Kuwaiti nationality law. The article stipulates that children born to a naturalized Kuwaiti after he obtained Kuwaiti nationality are to be considered native Kuwaitis. The provision of the paragraph added to the aforesaid article applies to those born before the introduction of this law.

He added that the council decided to approve the draft law and referred it to the National Assembly.

Furthermore, the council examined a number of other topics on its agenda and made appropriate decisions regarding them.

Trial of Bush Plot Suspects Resumes Hearings

LD0502111494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1021 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Feb (KUNA)—The State Security Court resumed here today hearings in the case of the terrorist network, which attempted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last year, instigated and planned by the Iraqi intelligence.

On 25 December 1993, the court postponed issuing sentences in this case in which 11 Iraqi and three Kuwaiti defendants are involved and decided to retry the case and hear the key witness in this case. [passage omitted]

Trial Postponed Until 5 Mar

LD0502112094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1039 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Feb (KUNA)—The State Security Court here today has postponed hearings in the case of the terrorist network which attempted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last year instigated and planned by the Iraqi intelligence until 5 March.

The reason for the postponement was to brief lawyers about the case before the hearing.

The court met under the chairmanship of Judge Salah al-Fahd and listened to the witness Abd al-Hamid al-Shatti, a Kuwaiti national who works at the Ministry of Interior. The witness said that when one of the accused was arrested he confessed that he was trained by Iraqi intelligence to assassinate Bush and blow up vital and crowded Kuwaiti locations.

He stressed that after the investigations and interrogations it became clear that Iraqi intelligence had provided the two main suspects: Wali al-Ghazali and Salim Nasir, with what was needed, referring to their confession that they were Iraqi intelligence personnel.

Yemen

Prime Minister on Political Crisis, Terrorism

NC0402202794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 6

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Kamal Jaballah in Aden; date not given]

[Text] Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has revealed that there are big "differences" in the views of all the parties involved in the struggle for power in his country. He accused the political forces participating in the government of practicing a "strong and backward centralism" in managing the state's affairs, adding that this shows that there is no desire to build a united state and its establishments but only a desire to keep things as they are.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM held at his residence in Aden, al-'Attas added that he rejected President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's offer to join the General People's Congress [GPC] because he did not want to cause more divisions within the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. He also confirmed that there are military movements between the two former sectors of Yemen following the frustration of the plans made to rebuild, organize, and unite the Armed Forces since the establishment of Yemeni unity on 22 May 1993.

Al-'Attas spoke about the presence of terrorists in his country and how they are used in internal or external operations. He accused certain Yemeni state organs of benefiting from these terrorists carrying out operations against opposing political forces inside the country.

In response to a question about the date of the prime minister's return to Sanaa, al-'Attas said: "Shortly-...when we reach a full agreement on the security arrangements and the constitutional and legal guarantees, all of which aim to reorganize to establish security and stability in all parts of Yemen and make them the basis for ensuring that the guarantees agreed on to implement the "Pledge and Agreement" document will help ensure the implementation of the document." [sentence as published]

Al-'Attas added: "The responsibility of signing the Pledge and Agreement document is a big one. There are still big "differences" in views and these must be resolved by the Yemeni political forces' Dialogue Committee. We believed that this issue should not be moved from the Dialogue Committee to a subcommittee. We believed that these arrangements and guarantees had to be resolved through the document. But the others insisted on resolving them through the subcommittee."

The Yemeni prime minister dealt with the many efforts to reform the system and ensure unity and democracy through the establishment of law and order. He said: "All these efforts were met with countermeasures that showed the lack of desire to build the state and the establishments and the desire to let matters remain as they were before unity. Some political forces waged war against national reconstruction and the political, economic, financial, and administrative reform programs that were adopted by the government in 1991 and that it started to implement after being ratified by the Chamber of Deputies. This is sufficient evidence that there are countermeasures being taken."

Al-'Attas added that he returned to Aden when the Dialogue Committee moved to that city after seeing that the work done between 22 November and the end of December 1993 did not result in much progress. The committee met from 2 January to 18 January and achieved a great deal that could not be done during the previous period.

Regarding reports that there are divisions inside the YSP about continuing the unity process while the opposite is reportedly unanimous on this issue, the Yemeni prime minister said: "One of the real mistakes made by the GPC is its constant effort to create divisions within the YSP and to fragment the national movement. This is against democracy and it classifies people. It wishes to see these differences inside the YSP."

Al-'Attas revealed, for the first time, the secret offer made to him by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to join the GPC instead of the YSP, adding that this was another indication of their attempts to create divisions within the YSP.

He said: "Following the incident when the Military Police stopped me last November while I was on my way to Sanaa, a telephone call was made between myself and the brother president. The president asked me to resign from the YSP and join the GPC to continue in my position as prime minister. This is evidence of their continued efforts to split the YSP's unity."

Al-'Attas added that his reply to the president's offer was that relinquishing his YSP membership would not be useful to the GPC, the YSP, or the Yemeni homeland.

Regarding reports about military movements in preparation for a confrontation between the two sides and the allocation of specific amounts of money to buy equipment and ammunition without the other side's knowledge, such as the one billion riyals that the president ordered to be spent in addition to the state budget or the accusation against the YSP that $300 million was added to the cost of the oil project in Hadhramaut without the president's or the government's knowledge for the same reason, al-'Attas said: "This is the first time I have heard of such a thing. We may have heard before that the same figure mentioned was given by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia!"

Al-'Attas added: "First, there is no Yemeni project whose cost has been increased. All the Yemeni oil projects have been completed. These projects' budgets have been approved by the Higher Council for Economic and Oil Affairs. Therefore, what is being said is really strange. The other side is looking for any accusation—regardless of how false—to make against the YSP."

Regarding the military movements, al-'Attas said: "We do not deny that there are military movements by both sides. We have repeatedly warned against this, including in our letter to the Chamber of Deputies in October 1993 when we called for the control of the Army and security through the allocations, the expenditures, and the merger. But this has not been done. We have emphasized our desire that the Armed Forces should not be used in the conflict. One of the guarantees required to implement the Pledge and Agreement document is the adoption of all measures to prevent the use of the Armed Forces as an excuse to abort the document or to proceed with it in the opposite direction."

When told that the YSP has been accused of "internationalizing" the problem, the Yemeni prime minister said: We in the YSP have not said this, they are saying it. In his latest trip to Aden as part of the mediation committee, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar met with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and said that there are two systems and two states, which is the reality. During the transitional period, the YSP sought to complete the unification of all institutions, including the military establishment, but if you follow these steps you will realize who was obstructing unification to prevent the establishment of a single state and a unified army. He added: The others are throwing accusations right and left at all people and all countries, including Egypt, but I see it as a Yemeni issue. The problems of application are Yemeni, too, and they were not born in August 1993, as they claim, but go as far back as September 1990, immediately after the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait. The dilemma lies in the failure to recognize that this is a serious problem facing a single state and that there is a crisis facing the unified state because of this dilemma.

Al-'Attas categorically denied the GPC's accusations against the YSP that the latter has recently received military aid from Bulgaria with Kuwaiti financing. He said: This is absolutely untrue. They are accusing many sisterly countries, although military preparations by all parties to the conflict are clearly obvious nowadays, but we want to prevent such preparations.

Regarding the secessionist threats facing Yemen's southern governorates in particular should a separation take place, God forbid, the Yemeni prime minister said: The threats made by them are not new. They know very well that the YSP is a unionist party, that all its practices are unionist, and that it does not seek a separation. Their remarks always reflect their inner feelings and what they are thinking. When the dialogue started, within the tripartite coalition first and at the national level later on, who was advancing serious and responsible proposals to emerge from the crisis? Was it the YSP or the GPC?

Al-'Attas was then asked about the YSP's ambitions for power, which exceed the results of the recent parliamentary elections in Yemen, something that further complicates the crisis. He said: These accusations are untrue as far as the YSP is concerned. The proof of this is the debates of the quadripartite committee that started in November 1991 and continued until 1993. These discussions prove that the YSP has never thought of seizing power but has recognized the need for the participation of all Yemeni political forces.

Al-'Attas said that the YSP consolidated its position during the recent parliamentary elections. The YSP succeeded in retaining all the seats in the southern provinces, except for two that were granted to the GPC [as published]. Meanwhile, the YSP managed to wrest a number of seats from the GPC in the north. This represented a great victory for the YSP over the GPC and the Yemen Reform Party.

The Yemeni prime minister added: The elections were not disappointing as far as the YSP was concerned because it demonstrated the YSP's strength. Had it not been for some terrorist practices by certain sides, the YSP would have achieved better results, particularly in the northern provinces.

In response to a question about the charges that the YSP is responsible for the terrorist acts—judging by the historical record before unity and the attempt to accuse the GPC and other parties of being responsible for the recent assassinations of the YSP's cadres—al-'Attas said: When the terrorist acts started in Yemen, they [not further identified] said that these practices were the result of a settling of accounts among the YSP members or were motivated by acts of revenge. The YSP used to arrest the defendants and refer them to the competent judicial departments. But the interrogations with the defendants were always contradictory to the charges against the YSP. After unity, 151 YSP cadres were liquidated, in addition to the direct threats against the party.

Al-'Attas continued: The investigations always blamed external forces, although the perpetrators were Yemenis. In my capacity as the prime minister, I demanded that assassinations be halted and measures be taken against a number of defendants who carried out such assassinations. When the security measures were implemented, a perpetrator from the southern provinces was arrested. But the others failed to arrest the defendants at their end, although the location of the defendants and those supporting them was known.

Al-'Attas added: When the explosion occurred near my house in July 1992, a person was arrested whose hands smelled of TNT. But the next day the security reports were reversed and claimed that the smell was that of "qat" [narcotic plants].

The Yemeni prime minister then talked about the foreign dimensions of terrorism which has affected Egypt. He said: "Terrorism has various forms. Terrorism runs counter to the democratic course pursued in Yemen. All terrorist practices in Yemen are listed under the category of terrorism. We have warned against these practices because the state resorted to favoritism with some parties to gain their support in confronting other domestic forces. A number of Yemenis and non-Yemenis recently returned to Yemen from Afghanistan."

The prime minister added: In my opinion, the presence of these terrorist elements in Yemen is harmful to the country and to its relations with other countries. It has become clear that there is "an overlap" [taqatu'] between the terrorist elements and the state apparatus. The extent of this "overlap" is not yet known. As prime minister, during a meeting attended by the head of the Presidential Council in 1992 I called for the arrest of the non-Yemeni terrorist elements or their expulsion from the country. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issued a decision on this matter at that time, but the decision was not implemented.

Some of the Yemeni terrorist elements were detained from the south governorates. The move was designed to cast a shadow on these governorates, particularly in view of the "allegations" that the orders of assassinations were issued by the YSP and that the said elements were members of the Jihad Party [hizb al-jihad]. The obvious goal, naturally, was to create further divisions within the southern governorates.

The Yemeni prime minister accused the GPC of demonstrating its partitionist designs through the "circular" issued by its standing committee to Yemeni diplomatic missions abroad. He said: The GPC standing committee is the authority in charge of issuing orders to the diplomatic missions abroad.

Answering a question concerning the ineligibility of the ruling regime in Yemen to lead the unified state because of its totalitarian history in both states before unity and the fact that the Yemenis have doubts about that regime and are trying to find an alternative democratic system, al-'Attas said: I believe that unity was a great event in Yemen's history. Unity coincided with democracy and these two developments, if left to interact with life and reality, will certainly spawn numerous leaderships. The problem is that the absence of democracy in the past has not allowed leaderships to emerge, but they will emerge in the future.

The Yemeni prime minister concluded his interview with AL-AHRAM by commenting on the task of rebuilding, reorganizing, and reuniting the Yemeni Armed Forces. He said: The Yemeni defense minister made several proposals on this matter and some of these were ratified, but some backsliding took place.

"In March 1992 the Yemeni Cabinet referred the issue to the prime minister and called for a solution. After meeting with the leaders of the Defense Ministry, the general principles were laid down and referred to the presidency. Suddenly, the whole project was dumped. A third attempt coincided with the formation of the coalition government. A proposal for rebuilding the Armed Forces, drafted by the defense minister and his colleagues, was ratified, with some changes, by the president. A timetable for its actual implementation was prepared. Suddenly, a new chief of staff was appointed and that man requested the postponement of any discussion of this subject. The result was that nothing was accomplished."

The prime minister spoke about Yemen's link to domestic and external terrorist incidents. He said: The state has followed and still follows a policy of "appeasement" of certain political forces to win their support in the face of other domestic forces. He added that the presence of terrorists in Yemen is harmful to that country both on the domestic and foreign levels. He disclosed the existence of "an overlap" or a yet unclear exchange of interests between these elements and some Yemeni state organs. The non-Yemeni elements have not been expelled from the country, he said.

'All Parties' To Meet To Prepare Accord Signing

JN0402201494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, 4 Feb (INA)—Yemen's ruling coalition partners and members of the opposition on the national dialogue committee have agreed to meet tomorrow, Saturday [5 February], to finalize arrangements for the signing of the document of pledge and accord by the Yemeni president, his deputy, and the country's political party leaders.

Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, official spokesman for the dialogue committee, told the Iraqi News Agency correspondent tonight that all parties engaged in the dialogue are agreeable to tomorrow's session to endorse the final arrangements for signing the accord that was initialed on 18 January, 1994.

Yemeni political parties from outside the ruling coalition yesterday called on the coalition partners to agree to the proposed meeting tomorrow and adopt a new mechanism for implementation in which they should be involved in a major way.

Informed Yemeni sources told the INA correspondent in Sanaa tonight that 11 February will most likely be set as the final date for signing the pledge accord in Amman.

Planning Minister: Accord in 'Precarious Situation'

JN0302172594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa—Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani today declared that the national accord that has been reached to end the political crisis in Yemen is in a precarious situation. In a news conference, al-Iryani ruled out the possibility of signing that accord in Jordan next week. Al-Iryani said that no agreement has been reached on the arrangements for the signing of the accord, in Jordan or in Yemen. He said that this is because there are conditions that have been set by the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Sanaa Officials Seize Plane Carrying Military Cargo

JN0602130494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] An Interior Ministry responsible source has informed the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that a Boeing 707 cargo plane bearing the Ugandan flag was siezed at al-Hudaydah Airport today, Sunday. The plane was flying from London via Athens to Aden, carrying a large cargo of batteries specially for military equipment and radio systems, which were being brought into the country illegally and without the knowledge or approval of the specialized authorities.

Competent authorities are carrying out investigations to determine the circumstances involving the arrival of this cargo into the country as well as those behind it.

Aden Source Demands Plane's Release

NC0602195694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Aden, 6 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source at Aden International Airport has dismissed the press report released by the Interior Ministry in Sanaa today that the Ugandan aircraft that was impounded at al-Hudaydah Airport today entered the country illegally. The source said that the aircraft was intercepted over al-Hudaydah and was forced to land at the airport.

The source added that the aircraft, which operates for a British company, was flying from London via Athens to Aden after it had been chartered by the Yemeni Airlines Company [al-Yemda]. The aircraft had permission from the Aden Airport authorities to land at Aden Airport. The source stressed that Aden Airport officials had informed the aviation authorities in Sanaa and al-Hudaydah that the aircraft had permission to land at Aden Airport.

The source said that the officials at the Civil Aviation Authority and the Air Force Command in Sanaa and al-Hudaydah will be held responsible for the consequences of such illegal acts. He noted that these acts represent a grave step that jeopardize air transportation movement in Yemeni airspace and harm Yemen's reputation and international position.

The source demanded that the aircraft, crew members, and load be immediately released.

UK Airline Official on 'Air Piracy'

LD0602225494 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2239 GMT 6 Feb 94

[By Moira Whittle, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] A British aviation company director tonight condemned the seizure of one of the firm's planes in Yemen as an act of "air piracy".

Andy King, director of Gatwick-based ANA Aviation, said the Boeing 707 aircraft's cargo contained nothing more sensitive than torch batteries.

The aircraft was on route for Aden with a cargo for the Southern Yemen airline al-Yemda when it was forced to land at al-Hudaydah airport near Sanaa, by the military. The four-man crew, which included a British engineer, left Britain with the cargo on Saturday night.

After the Ugandan-registered plane was forced down they were held at the airport for 18 hours before being released.

"This is air piracy as far as we are concerned," said Mr King. "The plane had permission to go to Aden. You can't force airplanes out of the sky. It's against international law. We are being used as a pawn between the North and South Yemenis," he said.

"There was nothing dangerous or of a military nature on board. There were just batteries and some pharmaceuticals," added Mr King.

He said various diplomatic efforts were being made and it was hoped the plane would be able to take off again with its cargo tomorrow.

A Yemeni interior ministry official said the plane was seized because it was carrying batteries for military equipment and communications sets and had entered the country's airspace without the knowledge or approval of the authorities.

Tension has been growing recently between the formerly Marxist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) and the north.

Aviation Official Rejects Aden Statement

JN0702072094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] A responsible source at the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority [GCAMA] has explained that the GCAMA is the authority responsible for issuing permits for all types of air transportation. This is in accordance with Article 10 of the Civil Aviation Law No. 12 of 1993. That article reads as follows:

No plane shall be allowed to fly within the civil aviation routes or conduct any direct flight to or from the republic without obtaining prior permission from the civil aviation authorities. This particularly applies to the following:

A. Crossing the republic's airspace.

B. Technical landing; that is, for purposes that have nothing to do with air traffic.

C. Emergency flights for rescue, relief, or other humanitarian purposes.

D. Foreign government flights.

E. Flights transporting weapons, ammunitions, or military and dangerous materials.

F. Irregular commercial air transportation flights.

G. Group tourist flights.

H. General flights connected with labor, tourism, air operations, or special flights.

With reference to the media reports carried by the Second Channel and the Second Program on a statement by an official source at Aden International Airport concerning the Boeing 707 plane which landed at al-Hudaydah airport, the GCAMA affirms that it had not granted entry or departure permission to that plane. It also affirms that airports are not authorized to give such permission. The authority denounces in part and parcel the statement that was given by an official source at Aden airport.

Wrapup of Talks Between 'Aziz, UN Commission's Ekeus

Ekeus Notes Meeting 'Private'

JN0502132194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here today with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission.

Following their two-hour meeting, Mr. Ekeus told INA that the "meeting was private and cannot be commented on."

He added that a new round of talks will be held between Iraq and the Special Commission later today.

In response to a question by INA on whether the talks will be concluded today, Ekeus said: We hope that most issues will be settled at the current stage and that the talks will be concluded tonight.

Talks End

JN0502213694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2018 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Iraq and the UN Special Commission concluded talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz headed the Iraqi delegation, and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf attended. The UN delegation was headed by its Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus.

During the final session, the Iraqi delegation consisted of Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and several specialists.

The UN Special Commission comprised John Scott, the Commission's legal adviser, and Tim Tereven [name as received], official spokesman for the Commission.

Joint Statement Issued

JN0602074794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Iraq and the UN Special Commission have asserted that their talks in Baghdad over the past four days have augmented the great progress made since last July in both the political and technical fields.

A statement issued by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Special Commission Executive Chairman Rolf Ekeus said the two sides expressed their readiness to expedite the process of setting up a continuous monitoring and verification system in a spirit of goodwill for the sake of realizing their common objective, which is the submission of a report to the Security Council by both the Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] at the earliest reasonable time, indicating that Iraq has adopted all the required measures in accordance with Paragraph 22 of the Security Council Resolution 687.

The statement added: Within this context, the Commission notes that the phase of intensive inspection operations which have already started in all fields within its jurisdiction will continue. For its part, Iraq said it will welcome all these inspection teams and will facilitate their work.

Following is the text of the statement:

A joint Statement issued by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq deputy prime minister, and Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, the executive chairman of the Special Commission, at the conclusion of high-level talks in Baghdad from 2-5 February:

1. The progress that was achieved in relations between Iraq and the Special Commission in July 1993 has been augmented during the latest round of high-level talks that was held in Baghdad from 2-5 February. At their initial stages, the talks were attended by an IAEA representative.

The current talks reviewed the steps that have been taken by the two sides to establish the frameworks for the continued monitoring and verification system after Iraq's acceptance on 26 November 1993 of UN Security Council Resolution 715 of 1991. In this regard, the talks have augmented the great progress that has been achieved since last July in both the political and technical fields, specifically the high-level talks held in New York and Baghdad in September, October, and November 1993.

2. The two sides expressed their readiness to expedite the process of setting up the continuous monitoring and verification system in a spirit of goodwill for the sake of realizing their common objective, which is specifically the submission of a report to the Security Council by both the Commission and the IAEA at the earliest reasonable time, indicating that Iraq has, in their opinion, adopted all the required measures in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687.

The Commission noted that, within this context, the phase of intensive inspection operations which have already started in all areas of its jurisdiction will continue. For its part, Iraq noted that it will welcome all these inspection teams and facilitate their work.

3. Technical talks regarding a number of issues were also held. These talks were held in a businesslike and professional manner and produced positive results.

4. An agreement was reached to hold another round of high-level talks in the first half of March 1994 so as to maintain the momentum which has been added to this process in this round of talks as well as in the previous rounds.

Joint News Conference Held

JN0602101694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has described as positive his talks in Baghdad, which he concluded yesterday.

In a joint news conference with Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, here today, Ekeus said that the results of these talks have augmented the progress that the two sides have made during the past months.

Ekeus stressed that these talks have bolstered the mutual trust between Iraq and the UN Special Commission, thus providing a better atmosphere for both sides to implement relevant UN resolutions and for lifting the embargo on Iraqi exports.

He said that the two sides have agreed that the Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency will submit as soon as possible their report to the UN Security Council on Iraq's adoption of the required measures in accordance with Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

He stressed that in their talks, both sides dealt with political as well as technical issues related to the UN resolutions.

For his part, Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi stressed that progress has been made toward the continuation of the two sides' early implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

He added: From our point of view, Iraq has implemented all the measures pertaining to that paragraph.

Dr. al-Qaysi indicated that both sides have agreed to continue cooperation, aiming for a speedy implementation of Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution.

Ekeus, Delegation Departs

JN0602085394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0807 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a five-day visit. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Ekeus To Set Date for 'Trial Period'

JN0502134394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged Mr. Ekeus to announce a date for the beginning of the trial period for future monitoring as agreed upon during the Baghdad and New York talks in last July and November.

In an article today entitled "Ekeus Talks in Baghdad, the Unjust Blockade, and the Responsibility for Prolonging it," the paper says that any procrastination or deliberate delays will increase the suffering of millions of Iraqis and will stain Ekeus' reputation in Iraq. He himself has acknowledged that Iraq has cooperated with him in a positive manner to help him fulfill his mission despite all its complications and difficulties.

The paper recalls an announcement made by Hans Blix, chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that Iraq has done what it was required to do and that what is left to be done is the part concerning the work of the Special Commission under Ekeus. He also noted that this commission was slow in accomplishing its mission.

The paper says that Mr. Ekeus should prove that he has not gone beyond the limits of his mission, which is technical in nature. He should not be influenced by the wishes of this or that party. His mission is technical, not political. It is wrong to link Part C or Paragraph 22 to other paragraphs, because this paragraph is independent and has a clear meaning.

The paper brands the attempts of the Clinton administration and those following suit to make strange interpretations of Paragraph 22 for clear political purposes as unacceptable. The paper also says that it is unacceptable for Ekeus to submit to these attempts. It notes that this is not in line with the technical nature of Ekeus' mission and runs counter to the principle of neutrality, honesty, and sincerity, to which he often stresses commitment.

The paper adds that honesty makes it incumbent upon Mr. Ekeus to announce now the starting date for the monitoring as agreed upon, provided that this period is not in excess of six months, after which he would announce that his mission has been fully completed. This means that the UN Security Council would be compelled to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which means lifting the economic blockade.

The paper adds: Mr. Ekeus should specify the starting date for the monitoring period during his current talks in Baghdad and he should do it as soon as possible. It would be fair to say that this period should have started last July when Iraq agreed to install two monitoring cameras in two different positions in Baghdad, and when Iraq declared its approval of Resolution 715 in November.

The paper says that Iraq approved the (?proposed) trial period in order to dismiss all the pretexts that are being floated by some influential UN Security Council members, specifically the United States. Iraq's approval, the paper says, was in order to make it possible to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which means lifting the economic blockade against Iraq. The evil powers want to prolong the blockade to achieve tendentious political objectives that have nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the current round of talks with Ekeus has special importance because it will discuss an important issue pertaining to the suffering of an entire people. Its results will negatively or positively affect the credibility of the United Nations and the Security Council, specifically the credibility of the permanent big powers and the extent of their commitment to the implementation of the resolutions which they have voted for, especially since Iraq has honored its obligations, especially with regard to Part C of Resolution 687.

Paper Notes, Examines 'Lies' of Clinton Presidency

JN0502221194 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Clinton's Lies and Moral Wrechedness"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton does not want to rest between lies. He is eager to defend the "achievements" of his feeble presidency by fabricating crises abroad and spreading lies, something which a person assuming a public responsibility scarcely does! It has become completely clear to all observers that Clinton, before completing his first year in office, is being criticized severely by many domestic sides due to a series of defeats and failures abroad.

On the domestic front, problems and scandals are raining on his head, including his love affairs before, during, and after the presidential elections and the exposure of financial irregularities that are being investigated in a climate of economic failure, and his failure to fulfill his tempting electoral promises. On the foreign policy front, defeats continue in Somalia, Haiti, and Russia, and plans to contain Japanese superiority and European independence have also failed. Moreover, Iraq has succeeded in rebuilding itself and safeguarding its national independence.

Therefore, Clinton has been perpetually exposed to severe campaigns of criticism by the U.S. media, and many sides hinted that he might be fired before ending his second year in office. This makes him face difficult and bitter options and forces him to choose the easiest and shortest way to prevent failure and criticism; namely, fabricating crises abroad and diverting U.S. public opinion and making it accept confusing and misleading policies.

The worst of his recent lies may be the ones he told in his periodic report to U.S. Congress two days ago because these lies express the U.S. President's state of misery and his disgusting moral retreat.

He told his first lie to Congress when he said Iraq intends to rebuild its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, especially the nuclear weapon! If Clinton had a balanced mind, logic, or memory, he would not have uttered such foolishness, simply because it is well known that the reports of the United Nations and its committees, particularly the International Atomic Energy Agency, which work at the instructions and supervision of the U.S. Administration, have all stated in their official reports that Iraq has no nuclear weapons and that these committees have destroyed Iraq's peaceful nuclear capabilities.

One of the ridiculous and reprehensible ironies is that Clinton told that lie three days before the arrival of Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, in Baghdad. Ekeus had admitted in all his reports that Iraq was free of weapons of mass destruction in order to discuss the implementation of Resolution 715 after Iraq implemented the other resolutions, most important of which is Resolution 687.

Clinton told his second lie when he said that Iraqi soldiers opened fire on a military convoy of the allied forces in northern Iraq last December. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry issued an official report at that time and refuted the lie. Raising this fabricated story that collapsed when confronted by reality is intended to incite the U.S. Congress against Iraq and justify the blockade.

He also told a third lie to Congress when he said that the Iraqis are suffering from the blockade because Iraq refuses to export oil. Despite its silliness, this statement requires comment. Iraq did not refuse and will not refuse to export oil. The opposite is true. Iraq asks for permission to export oil to meet its people's needs, but the United States insists that a UN committee receive and spend oil revenues inside Iraq, as if the committee were a substitute for the Iraqi Government or as if it were in a country having no central government.

While it is a big insult to the Iraqi people, this U.S. condition cancels Iraq's sovereignty and violates its national independence because allowing a foreign side to receive oil revenues and purchase and distribute basic goods apart from the Iraqi Government means accepting a disgusting trusteeship that conflicts with the Iraqi people's history and dignity. The Iraqi people rebelled against that trusteeship and offered thousands of martyrs to terminate it and prevent it from returning.

Clinton knows that he is lying and that what he relates are sheer stories, fabricated and prepared to justify the continuation of the blockade. The issue may seem to be rather bearable, but if we take into account the fact that Clinton, a representative of the American people and their legislative organ, addresses Congress on such issues, we will understand the size of defect in the U.S. President.

He lies to the highest legislative authority to mislead it and get it to support an unjust and inhuman policy in conflict with the values and principles of the U.S. Constitution; namely, the continuation of the blockade on a whole nation. This behavior also conflicts with the presidential oath in which he promised to carry out his duties honestly and sincerely. It also conflicts with the qualifications required in a president; namely truthfulness. Congressional leaders and members were toppled when their lies were proved. The Watergate scandal toppled President Richard Nixon when he lied and denied that he had known about spying on the rival party's headquarters.

Clinton has not only committed the crime of insisting on killing thousands of Iraqis through the blockade, but has also gone beyond that to mislead the American people and Congress! If Congress is truthful and honest to the American Constitution and to its duties, it has to raise the issue of the President lying and misleading the American public and Congress and committing the crime of annihilating mankind!

Finally, Clinton's lies are just more evidence of his political and moral failure and bankruptcy, his weakness, and his unstable policy and behavior. This is his Achilles' heel. Leading the world, which is Clinton's ambition, will never be achieved by charlatans, liars, and the weak. This is history's most important lesson.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives PLO's 'Abdallah Hurani

JN0602155494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau, received 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, here today.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau.

Ramadan Comments on Embargo, Resuming Oil Exports

JN0602170094 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 6 (INA)—Vice-President Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq does not view the lifting of the embargo through the resumption of oil export in accordance with the UN formula which is considered another form of embargo on Iraq.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper published today, Mr. Ramadan said we want to lift the embargo and resume oil export in the manner that could not infringe our independence and national sovereignty.

Mr. Ramadan added "We want to have Iraq sell and buy without interference of any other forces pointing out that the current formula for resuming the export of oil is rejected, since it constitutes a flagrant interference into Iraq's sovereignty. [no end quote marks as received]

Mr. Ramadan said that all oppressive formulas they (enemies) have placed under various covers and which were considered a mask to carry on the imposition of the embargo and preventing Iraq from exporting its oil had ended. There should be a serious consideration to lifting the embargo from Iraq and allowing it to export it abroad, he said.

Mr. Ramadan said that he was optimistic that the embargo would end through patience of Iraqis and determination to restore life to its normal.

Mr. Ramadan said the embargo would be eliminated through the building of self-capabilities of the society and will be lifted once and for all when the criminal enemies be convinced of the impossibility to achieve the objectives that had urged them to impose this embargo on Iraq.

Mr. Ramadan added that Umm al-Ma'arik [the Mother of Battles] represents the beginning of a new stage and a new growth not only on the level of slogans and principles but on the level of starting the correct mobilization pointing out that impact of Umm al-Ma'arik would also be realised in eras to come.

Fliers Published; Trial for Some Officials Sought

JN0502205294

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 2 February publishes on page 12 the following report under the banner headline "The Greatest Honor: Serving the Homeland and the Leader:"

"The coalition aircraft have dropped fliers over Bani-Sakin area, near al-Nashwah, al-Basrah Governorate.

"The Iraqis listen to beamed foreign radios, which have a greater influence than the fliers. During their underground struggle, the Ba'thists used the flier technique and they cannot be deceived by such games.

"The aircraft that dropped these fliers are the same aircraft that dropped hundreds of tonnes of bombs on our great people. They failed to achieve the enemies' goal to infringe on the sovereignty, security, and renaissance of Iraq under its mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him. Accursed be they and shame on those who sold their homeland to jump into the hands of the foreigner."

Copies of six of these fliers are published with the report. Each flier is headlined "Wanted By International Justice," and includes a picture of the official concerned with a summary of "crimes" he has committed printed under the picture. The fliers read:

"Taha Yasin Ramadan, accused of crimes against humanity, including mass murder committed by the Republican Guard in the south under his command."

" 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, accused of crimes against humanity, including the killing of tens of thousands of citizens in Iraqi Kurdistan in al-Anfal Operations."

"Wathan Ibrahim, accused of crimes against humanity. He ordered the execution of 42 merchants in Baghdad in July 1992."

"Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, accused of crimes against humanity, including brutal suppression of the popular uprising in al-Samawah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Basrah, al-Kut, al-'Amarah, and the marshlands in the south in March 1991."

" 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, accused of crimes against humanity, including mass murder, rape, and instigating genocide."

" 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, accused of crimes against humanity, including ordering the destruction and desecration of holy places when he was governor of Karbala' and al-Najaf."

Symposium on Gulf War Opens in Baghdad

French Official Interviewed

JN0702104794 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[By Jihad Zayir, Nazirah Nadim, and Rasmiah Minwir]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—A symposium on facts and misinformation in Arab and foreign publications on the Mother of Battles will begin in Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH has interviewed Gilles Monet, secretary general of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society, on the sidelines of the symposium. Gilles Monet said: I have had the honor to be received by President Saddam Husayn several times. Saddam Husayn is a man who devotes his life to Iraq, and to place this country on equal footing with advanced countries. That's why the 17 July Revolution took place, and under his leadership oil was nationalized. Monet said that the Iraqis are lucky to have as their leader a man like Saddam Husayn. He said that the United States interferes in the domestic affairs of many countries. It even interfered in *France's* domestic affairs, as was the case with respect to the GATT agreement. He added that it was the United States which forced France to participate in attacking Iraq. He explained that France's relations with Iraq have started to improve since Edouard Balladur became prime minister

Monet said that French companies suffered much from the blockade imposed on Iraq because they lost many of the opportunities that that they previously had, not to mention that France now has a high unemployment rate, and if the blockade is lifted, this will greatly contribute to settling this problem.

Monet said he greatly admires the reconstruction process under way in Iraq. He said: The war has had negative results for the Iraqis but, at the same time, has made the Iraqis carry out great work. The Iraqis have proved that they have creative minds and can depend on themselves to attain great achievements.

'Misinformation' Charted

JN0602201094 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 6 (INA)—A three-day symposium on facts vs. misinformation in Arab and foreign publications on Umm al-Ma'arik [Mother of Battles] battle (reference to the U.S.-led war against Iraq) on Friday was concluded.

Organised by Umm al-Ma'arik research centre at al-Rashid Hotel, the symposium was attended by a large number of Arab and foreign writers and media men. More than 30 research papers in Arabic and foreign languages were discussed during the symposium.

The discussions were mainly focused on three main topics namely political and economic hegemony, and facts distortion and lies discrimination by Western media to manipulate the world public opinion.

Addressing the opening session, head of Umm al-Ma'arik research centre Dr. Muhammad Mudhaffar al-Adhami said the symposium aims at exchanging views to reach scientific analyses and conclusions away from effects of the world super powers.

Chaired by Arab thinker Muta' al-Safadi, the first session discussed political hegemony.

In his speech, Mr. al-Safadi said the symposium helps bring together Arab and foreign writers who wrote about Umm al-Ma'arik battle and who had not the chance to meet before, adding that the symposium will help expose facts and reveal the real intentions of the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq.

During the said session a large number of research papers were discussed, among them were papers on various books written on the Gulf war. They include Jeff Archer's "The Sledge Hammer and the Ant;" Muhammad Abfood's "The Gulf War, a Test for International Legitimacy;" 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Jawhari's "The Arab Gulf and the Allies War on Iraq;" Noam Chomsky's "On U.S. Gulf Policy;" Pierre Salinger and Arabic Loran's "The Secret Dossier of the Gulf War;" Dr. 'Awad Butrus' "Gulf War, Who Is Responsible;" and Colin Edwards' "Turning Ploughshares Into Swords in U.N."

Research papers on Ramsey Clark's book "The Fire this Time" and Michel Jobert's "Journal Du Golf" were also discussed.

The second session, held on Thursday, was dedicated to economic hegemony. Speaking at the session, Dr. 'Abd-al-Ilah Belaqeez (Tunisia) said goals behind the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq are clear and well known, saying that the United States aimed at controlling wealth sources.

He added that the U.S. tried to hit Iraq as it represents a power in the region that threatens its interests.

Dr. Beliqzeez went on to say that the U.S. and its allies are currently heading towards dismembering the Arab region.

A number of papers on economic hegemony were presented during the session. They included among others papers on "The Palestinian Intifadah and Gulf Convulsion" by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, "America and the Secrets of the Gulf War From Carter to Bush" by Dr. Nabil al-Samman, and "America Invades the Gulf" studies of the American Congress translated by Wajih Radi.

The third session was devoted mainly to the misinformation and fact distortion and lies disseminated by Western media.

During the session chapters from Michel Collon's book "Attention Medias" were reviewed and discussed. The book reveals and exposes America's immoral practices and big lies disseminated by Bush administration to promote its war policy. The book also made it clear that prior to the military aggression against Iraq, Bush administration launched a smear media campaign to distort Iraq's image.

The researcher from Belgium shed light on the mechanism and status of the Western media saying that four factors determine the functioning of the Western media organs, chief among which is the financial control of the multi-national firms on Western media and the subordination of the media organs to the said firms and the authority, noting that media organs were obliged to beautify the image of the government to maintain good relations with the said firms and the government which supported them financially.

The participants on Wednesday visited al-'Amiriyah shelter which was bombed by specially designed bombs to rip through shelters. On Thursday, the participants visited a museum that documents the scale of damage inflicted upon Iraq's infrastructure by U.S.-led war and outcome of the postwar nationwide reconstruction drive. In the evening, the participants listened to lecture delivered by Dr. Muhammad Mudhaffar al-Adhami on the origin of Kuwait.

Symposium on Human Rights Opens in Baghdad

Ramsey Clark Chairs 1st Meeting

JN0502214894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—An international symposium on war crimes and the blockade's violation of human rights in Iraq, organized by human rights organizations in Iraq, opened here this morning.

Dr. Riyad 'Aziz Hadi, chairman of the Iraqi Human Rights Society, delivered an opening speech in which he reviewed the negative effects of the blockade, which was imposed on the Iraqi people in flagrant violation of human rights. All nations, regardless of their different cultures, believe in human rights and man's dignity and rights in life.

He said that the economic blockade has caused the death of thousands of children, women, and elderly because of the lack of medicine and food and because of hospitals' serious lack of equipment and other requirements and their failure to extend services and medical care. [passage omitted]

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who chaired the first session, delivered a speech in which he recalled the reasons for the martyrdom of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis during the past four years, and said that these deaths were caused by the criminal acts committed by the United States and its allies with the Security Council's support.

He pointed out that the Security Council has become a tool for war and is treating nations in an inhuman way through the veto right, which only five states enjoy.

He said that in a modern age and in various wars, the prevailing principle should be care for society as the source for all laws and not to threaten the society with law. He noted that experts of human rights and of war and peace are now raising their voices to say that sanctions against the Iraqi people constitute a crime against the whole of humanity.

Ramsey Clark also urged serious action by the humanitarian organizations and world figures to prevent the use of economic sanctions as a tool to strike at people since they constitute a crime against humanity and against the individual's right to live in prosperity and peace.

He said the economic sanctions are an ugly crime that cause the death of more people than those killed in military aggression, and especially deaths among the weak, the sick, the elderly, and women. He noted that the economic sanctions constitute a weapon of mass destruction since it paralyzes an entire country by starving it and spreading killer diseases.

He added: We in the World Criminal Court have found that economic sanctions constitute a continuous crime against humanity since it is a crime that seeks to murder children. He stressed that humanitarian and world organizations must act seriously to put an end to the sanctions that kill children, women, and old men daily.

Ramsey Clark noted that economic sanctions now threaten many countries because they have turned into a tool at the hands of the superpowers to intimidate other states. He explained that the United States had confessed that it refused to export foodstuffs to Iraq despite previous agreements. He said such a method is criminal and it is unacceptable to use food as a tool to strike at peoples.

He explained that the main purpose for this symposium was to find the means [words indistinct] the United States and its allies to immediately end the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Concluding, Ramsey Clark said: I am seeking support for the Iraqi people whom I love and I wish them prosperity and hope to end the current suffering caused them by the sanctions that constitute a crime against humanity.

UK Accused of War Crimes

JN0602195394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—An international symposium on war crimes and the blockade's violation of human rights in Iraq continues its work in Iraq for the second day running.

Several Arab, foreign, and Iraqi figures, representing humanitarian groups and organizations throughout the world, spoke during today's session, which was chaired by Amin Shuqayr from Jordan. [passage omitted]

Hugh Stevens from the United Kingdom said that the Muslim communities in Britain suffered from a wave of racism as a result of the policy of the British Government, which decided to declare war against Iraq and deliberately created a racist and tense atmosphere to prepare British public opinion for war. It also exerted efforts to cooperate with the United States to hamper any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

He added that creating war deliberately is a crime against peace, in accordance with the Nuremberg principles. Therefore, in light of our experience, we can assert that the British rulers committed crimes against peace, as well as war crimes unprecedented in the history of war.

He said: I accuse former British Prime Minister Thatcher of committing war crimes, as well as crimes against peace. He also accused British Prime Minister Major and Foreign Secretary Hurd of war crimes and of committing the crime of deliberately creating poverty in one of the most important areas of the world by imposing an unjust and illegal economic blockade, whose consequences have become clear in Iraq's cities and hospitals. He pointed out that, through its alliance with the United States, Britain committed the ugliest crime of modern times. He described the alliance as most hostile to Iraq. He called for breaking that hostility through joint struggle by the free people of the world, who yearn for freedom and to live in peace.

He added: We should continue, through public opinion, to accuse the imperialists of crimes against peace, as well as war crimes, in order to strengthen opposition against the blockade imposed on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Radio Notes Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul

NC0602171694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, and Syria ended their meetings in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday. The meetings were held within the framework of the periodic discussions held by these countries to study the situation in Iraq's Kurdistan.

The final statement issued stressed the following points:

1. Iraq's territorial integrity.

2. Opposition to any foreign interference in Iraq's affairs.

3. The need to lift the economic siege imposed by the regime on Iraq's Kurdistan and the south.

4. Iraq's compliance with all UN resolutions.

If we put aside what was discussed behind the scenes during the meetings, we see that the three ministers' emphasis on the issue of lifting the economic siege of Iraq's Kurdistan and the south is a positive step toward understanding the sufferings of the Iraqi people in general and of our Kurdish people in Iraq's Kurdistan in particular.

Our Kurdish people have stressed through the parliament and regional government the need to compel the Iraqi regime to comply with the international resolutions imposed on it by the United States. The brother officials in Turkey, Iran, and Syria should realize that Saddam Husayn and not the Kurdish people is the reason why Iraq and the countries of the region remain within the whirlpool of conflicts that have exhausted the region's peoples and governments. Therefore, efforts must be made to save the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, Turkomen, and Assyrians—from the evils of the Baghdad dictatorial regime.

The time has come to put an end to the doubts about our Kurdish people's democratic experiment. The neighboring countries have to understand that recognition of the Kurdish people's national legitimate rights within a democratic and pluralistic Iraq is the guarantee for protecting the country's territorial integrity and for sparing it any foreign interference in internal affairs.

Action in any other direction will not be in line with the principles laid down by the new world order for dealing with the problems of the persecuted peoples looking for liberation. Our Kurdish people in Iraq do not intend the democratic experiment to result in anything but legitimate rights.

Iranian 'Rebels' Conclude 'War Games' Near Border

NC0702130394 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7 (AFP)—Thousands of Iranian rebels using helicopters, tanks, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns on Monday ended four days of war games in an Iraqi region near the border with Iran, a rebel spokesman said.

Women rebels for the first time piloted helicopters that carried troops to mock battlefields during the first manoevers of the year, said Farid Soleymani, spokesman for Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mojahedin

The Mojahedin has several military bases in Iraq, near the border with Iran.

The announcement of the exercise, codenamed "Iran's hope," the first to he held since October 1993, came one day after Iraqi opposition fighters paraded in Iran, near the border with Iraq.

The Mojahedin on Sunday meanwhile called on Iranians to join protests that took place last week and revolt against the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Clashes occurred in the southern Iranian city of Zahedan last Tuesday. The Mojahedin claimed that protests had also taken place in other southern cities.

Baghdad and Tehran, who harbour each other's opposition groups, often accuse each other of interfering in their internal affairs.

'Reliable Source' on Opposition Attacks, Executions

NC0602165794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] A reliable source in Baghdad has informed us that the Iraqi opposition forces' attacks on the regime's establishments and offices have continued unabated in the past few weeks.

On the night of 26 January, a heroic unit from the opposition forces staged a lightning attack on a police vehicle in the middle of Baghdad near the Baghdad Governorate building in Bab al-Mu'azzam. All four occupants of the vehicle were killed.

On the night of 27-28 January, the party's branch and the police headquarters in al-Huriyyah town came under attacks with machine guns. A number of the regime's henchmen were killed or wounded.

On the night of 28-29 January, the party's branch in al-Mashtal area was attacked by an armed unit from the opposition forces. One official was killed and two others were wounded.

The same source added that the regime spread rumors that it will annex Kuwait once again to Iraq and asked all departments and establishments, including airports, to stock up on fuel, especially oil and gasoline.

The source confirmed that the regime executed six of the Republican Palace officers last week. Their identities remain unknown.

Shiite Radio Reports Recent Antiregime Operations

NC0502165794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic resistance forces recently carried out a heroic operation that terrified the regime's forces, security organs, and ruling party officials in al-'Amarah. Our sources in the south reported that a resistance group launched a lightening attack against al-'Amarah governor's headquarters in al-Mashtal using medium-caliber machine guns and RPG-7's, causing damage to the building.

The sources said that a large number of the regime's henchmen and officials of his organs of repression were present in the building at the time of the attack. Ambulances and fire-fighting teams were seen hurrying to the destroyed headquarters and spent many hours pulling out the dead bodies of the regime's henchmen.

Our sources later learned that the al-'Amarah governor was away in Baghdad at the time of the assault.

The regime placed its forces on alert, adopted emergency measures in al-'Amarah, and conducted an extensive search operation that included arrests of citizens.

Another group of the Islamic resistance forces attacked a military command vehicle belonging to the tyrant Saddam's forces in Mid-January while it was traveling in al-Kahla' district in al-'Amarah Maysan Governorate. Our sources said that the vehicle was completely destroyed and the occupants killed included a major, a lieutenant, and the driver. Following the attack, the tyrant Saddam's forces conducted extensive patrols and set up checkpoints manned by security personnel to search, arrest, and interrogate citizens.

Kurdish opposition sources reported that an explosion has occurred in the Border Guard headquarters which is adjacent to the General Security Directorate in Baghdad. They said the evacuation of those killed or wounded by the blast lasted for two hours.

The same sources said that another military building used by the Special Forces in Baghdad Governorate was the target of a machine-gun attack in mid-January, killing army captain Sabri Yasin al-Rawi and three other mercenaries.

According to our sources, the headquarters of al-Hindiyah's district officer, a man known for his criminal behavior, was the target of a lightning attack by five mujahidin.

Our mujahidin in Karbala' Governorate earlier attacked the car of Kazim Marhun, a tribal chief in the area, forced him to get out of the car, and then shot him. They then left behind leaflets warning all those who terrorize our people to stop such actions or they would meet the same fate.

Our heroic mujahidin inflicted just retribution on the criminal Sattar 'Adday Taha in al-Jurn in al-Kaba'ish District because he had perpetrated treasonous acts against our people in that area. He had received several warnings to stop implementing the tyrant Saddam's orders and to learn from the death of his brother Samir 'Adday, who used to spy on our people and who later received his just retribution at the hands of our mujahidin.

Arab League Informed of 27-31 Jan Airspace Violations

JN0602171694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities for the U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate the Iraqi airspace, thus seriously threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter of protest to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that from 27-31 January U.S., British, and French aircraft carried out 192 hostile air sorties after flying from their bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Attaching his letter to a list detailing these violations, the Iraqi representative asked that it be distributed among the Arab member states.

Rabin Rejects Proposal for Talks Without 'Arafat

TA0702053494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Israel has decided not to send its peace delegation, with Shim'on Peres at its head, to Cairo today if Yasir 'Arafat does not participate in the talks. According to Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent, this was decided last night in a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. More from reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] [passage omitted] The prime minister is not playing the PLO's game. Last night, in his meeting with the Arab Israeli Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who has been described by Palestinian watchers as the PLO's ambassador to Israel, Prime Minister Rabin rejected the PLO's proposal to hold the talks today without 'Arafat being present.

Rabin is keeping Israel's next moves close to the chest. In a speech last night welcoming Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus to Israel, the prime minister repeated the stand he has been taking for the last month:

[Rabin] Mr. Prime Minister, in our quest for peace we have learned that we must stand our ground on matters of life and death, to guarantee our security, and not to run after false solutions. For us, peace without security is not peace. We are mindful of lessons from your distant and not so distant past. One of them is taken from your tragic history: the agreement which abandoned your country to the destructive jaws of the Nazi regime. We have learned to rely only on ourselves.

[Winter] This morning, Prime Minister Rabin will again meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as the entire Israeli delegation and with senior members of the defense establishment, to decide on Israel's next move. [end recording]

Peres Interviewed on 'Difficulties' in Talks

TA0602180394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Raz] Mr. Foreign Minister, are you going to Cairo tomorrow?

[Peres] I hope so. We still have to clarify a few things.

[Raz] Where do the contacts with the PLO stand? Is there any chance of concluding matters in the present round of talks?

[Peres] Israel has prepared a complete agreement. Now we have to also reach agreement with the PLO.

[Raz] Will 'Arafat arrive tomorrow?

[Peres] I cannot answer for him.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, where do the major obstacles lie?

[Peres] In the complexity of the situation on the ground, in the various scenarios, concerns, fears, and aspirations. Whoever thinks we are negotiating over where a policeman should stand or not is simply deluding himself. These negotiations are about the crux of the matter, about peoples' emotions, fears, and hopes. The fact that this is expressed in arguments about the stationing of this or that policeman merely serves to highlight the difficulties in bridging the existing gaps between the Palestinian and Israeli positions.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, do you really think that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is throwing a monkey wrench into the works, as one newspaper headline stated?

[Peres] No one ever heard me make such a statement or use such a remark in the course of the past week. Many of the things attributed to me are mere assumptions based on groundless psychological analyses.

[Raz] Do you have any reservations with the IDF's degree of involvement in the current stage of the process?

[Peres] I think it is important that the IDF be involved. The negotiations definitely have their security and military aspects and I have no complaints about the IDF's involvement.

[Raz] Thank you Mr. Peres.

Peres Fears 'Slowdown' in Talks

TA0502060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he fears a slowdown in the peace talks. Peres yesterday answered questions about the negotiations with the Palestinians and the whole peace process in a lively session in New York with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. On the phone with details is Judy Lessing in New York:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Shim'on Peres said his talks with Yasir 'Arafat are negotiations between two people with deep feelings and great emotions. With every point representing thorns and miles of feelings, suspicions, and fears. He said great care is taken over every word and nuance. There is a drawback to this.

[Peres] We feel that if we shall go on at the present pace we may lose a great deal of goodwill, both at home and abroad. The tremendous amount of goodwill which exists today in the world may evaporate and nothing will remain.

[Lessing] The foreign minister said recent remarks by Mr. 'Arafat to the United Nations Human Rights Commission that Arabs do not believe Israel is serious about implementing the peace accords do not surprise him.

[Peres] Let us not forget that we are arguing with 'Arafat, not only agreeing. I do not expect 'Arafat to offer us compliments. He wants to win points too.

[Lessing] Mr. Peres turned aside rumors that he and the prime minister have differences and said that during the negotiations they are in daily phone contact.

[Peres] Each of us is entitled to emphasis what he thinks is important, but at the end of the day we reach an agreement otherwise we could not work. Let me say very seriously that I believe that Mr. Rabin, as myself, do understand in depth that a divided leadership may be a catastrophe for peace and for the country. You must trust us that we understand seriously what is our responsibility, and do not pay so much understand to the gossips and rumors.

[Lessing] Foreign Minister Peres said after President Clinton and Syria's President al-Asad met, there was a new climate.

[Peres] But when you look at the hard facts not many changes really occurred. First of all, I wish that al-Asad would use the same language like Clinton. It would warm up the heart of many Israelis. But whereas Clinton was forthcoming and generous, al-Asad was economic and careful.

[Lessing] Mr. Peres said he sees no change in four areas: the negotiations with Syria lack openness, are too formal, and do not give the negotiators the freedom to make mistakes and work through them. President al-Asad is silent about peace. Syria has an ambiguous position about security and Israel will not buy equal footing, exchanging a demilitarized Golan for a demilitarized Israel. There are no dramatic moves on Lebanon, just slow caution.

[Peres] We on our side, we say that we are for a comprehensive peace, Syria included, but we are against a comprehensive negotiation. Because if we shall have to negotiate simultaneously with all sides, the party which is slow or reluctant may decide the pace of the negotiations. This is more or less the situation.

[Lessing] Mr. Peres showed he is tired of the Saudi Arabian position: a private backing of peace but nothing in public.

[Peres] The time has come for them, in my judgment, to stand up and say clear things about peace. And, if you ask me, I am totally dissatisfied with their position.

[Lessing] Mr. Peres said much has changed since Yig'al Alon's red lines which could not be crossed. He said missiles and nonconventional arms have changed the nature of security and what is needed is a regional defense which is up to date and for tomorrow, not for yesterday. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Peres also predicts that when peace is achieved, an industrial zone will be created along the Jordan River. He told the Jewish leaders in New York that the river would be a bridge for new enterprises instead of a knife cutting the economic flesh of Israel and Jordan.

Al-Tibi: 'Arafat-Peres Meeting Linked to Progress

TA0502125494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, said that the PLO was prepared to immediately sign the understandings reached at the beginning of the Davos talks. Al-Tibi asserted that the meeting between 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres was conditional on Israel's—and especially on Prime Minister Rabin's—readiness to permit a rapid completion of the negotiations.

Speaking before the Jewish-Arab center in Yafo, Ahmad al-Tibi criticized the police force's intention to use dogs against Palestinians. Al-Tibi added that the PLO leadership was very interested in Minister Hayim Ramon's political future, because he had played a positive role in achieving the agreement between the PLO and Israel. Ahmad al-Tibi's remarks were reported by our correspondent Qa'is al-Qudra.

Sarid Denies Allegations of Rabin-Peres Discord

TA0502100294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid, a member of the Israeli team negotiating with the PLO, said that it was the Palestinian delegation's constant vacillation which precluded the reaching of an agreement in Davos, and not disagreements between Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Sarid denied allegations made by Nabil Sha'th, according to which inflexible instructions from Rabin foiled agreement. Sarid asserted that Sha'th had approved a document formulated by the delegations and only retracted his agreement after 'Arafat expressed dissatisfaction with the paper. Minister Sarid that an exchange of accusations between the two delegations would neither help nor promote the negotiations. Instead of continuing to analyze what happened in Davos, Sarid said, we must prepare for the meeting in Cairo in order to guarantee its success.

Cabinet Discusses Peace Talks, IDF Involvement

TA0602113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Now to the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem: Health Minister Hayim Ramon did in fact resign this morning. He submitted his letter of resignation and left the cabinet chamber. The resignation takes effect on 48 hours' time. During the meeting, several ministers expressed reservations about IDF [Israel Defense

Forces] involvement in the peace process; others spoke up for this involvement. On this and other issues on the agenda, David Ze'ev:

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is scheduled to arrive home late this afternoon. His office says the foreign minister will sit down with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the next steps in the peace process towards evening.

At this morning's cabinet meeting, a government source says Prime Minister Rabin told his ministers: We are always giving, and the Palestinians are always taking. Internally, the prime minister spoke out against the criticism of Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom that Army officers are overly involved in the diplomatic process of the negotiations with the Palestinians. Rabin is said to have complained that the critics are never satisfied. Either, they say, the Army isn't having a big enough say, or, they say, the Army is too involved.

Meretz Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that while certainly the Army must be involved in the military ramifications of the Gaza Jericho First arrangement, there is the impression, says Tzaban, that the IDF's involvement goes beyond what is necessary.

Health Minister Hayim Ramon presented his letter of resignation, as expected. He was abrupt when asked about the next 48 hours until the resignation takes effect, but he certainly did not rule out the possibility of his remaining in the government, and not just as a Knesset member. [passage omitted]

Fatah Hawks Said Disobeying PLO-Tunis

TA0602140594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] In today's cabinet session, security sources reported that the Fatah Hawks do not accept the authority of PLO-Tunis, and that since the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles they have not ceased their terror activity.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Prime Minister Rabin emphasized to the ministers that in the talks which preceded the formulation of the Declaration of Principles he prevented the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] involvement because at that time political decisions were being made. Now, however, the military echelon is involved in the negotiations because military decisions are being made on issues such as external security, safeguarding the traffic axes, and securing the settlements.

Mr. Rabin explained that he wants the 'Arafat-Peres meeting to proceed as planned in Cairo tomorrow. Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will hold a private meeting this afternoon in order to decide on this issue.

Baraq on Talks, Disagreement With Foreign Ministry

TA0402060994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Security issues, agreed to at the talks with the PLO, are to be discussed today at the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister Rabin, Chief of Staff Baraq, and other senior officers are to take part. Chief of Staff Baraq says reports of divisions between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Foreign Ministry over security agreements with the Palestinians are exaggerated. All of us share a common goal to achieve the best security arrangements possible, he said in Tel Aviv last night.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 February adds: "Chief of Staff Baraq said yesterday that in the recent discussions with the PLO, very promising working papers have been formalized. The IDF examines every draft and makes its comments because it will have to execute the agreement in the field."]

Commenting on the gun battle between an Army undercover unit and Fatah members in Rafah yesterday in which one Fatah gunman was killed and two soldiers wounded, General Baraq said the IDF will continue to pursue anyone still engaging in armed attacks. The chief of staff, who was attending the annual dinner for wounded veterans of the IDF Engineering Corps, spoke with our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] There is an impression now that there is a conflict or an argument between the IDF, the Army, yourself, and the diplomats with regard to security arrangements and the agreement with the Palestinians.

[Baraq] No, no; we do not have.... [pauses] Our negotiations are not with the Foreign Ministry or the minister of foreign affairs, but Israel is running negotiations with the Palestinians. We have, naturally, different perspectives, but a common cause and goal to achieve an agreement with the Palestinians where the security interests—especially the personal security of Israeli settlers in the Gaza and Jericho area—will be fully secured. We are responsible for it. These are arrangements that have to do with the security of the individual settler in Gaza and Jericho, and we feel fully committed to make whatever should be done in order to secure that.

[Ben-'Ami] Does it look as if it is going to take a lot more discussion yet to reach the arrangement?

[Baraq] No. It is quite natural that we are clarifying the details with our Foreign Ministry officials, but if it should take another two or three weeks, so let it be.

[Ben-'Ami] General Baraq, has there been any change in the IDF policy toward Fatah members? There have been a number of gunfights, a number of arrests of Fatah people by the IDF?

[Baraq] We do not discriminate them along the lines of organizational behavior, but along the lines of their personal behavior. Those who are taking part in active violence, even after the 13th of September, the agreements, we keep pursuing them. But, we are not dealing with those who let their arms down and are not participating in active violence, and were not participating in the past in murders.

[Ben-'Ami] With regard to the violence, a number of young children have been killed in recent days on the streets in the Gaza—an 11-year-old, a 13-year-old—in shooting incidents with the Army.

[Baraq] We are making whatever we can in order to reduce the fatalities among civilians, especially among children. Unfortunately, the sources of violence are in the behavior of the Palestinian population. We hope that they will be able to control the going out and activity on the street of the youngsters. [end recording]

Rabinovich on Proposal for Phased Withdrawal

TA0702064394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan]

[Text] The Washington peace talks will resume approximately one week from now, on 15 February. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has postponed his departure for the Middle East in order to enable Israel and the PLO to conclude their complex negotiations before an effort is made to expedite the Israeli-Syrian talks.

On the table at which Muwaffaq al-'Allaf and Itamar Rabinovich will again sit down together will be an Israeli proposal that a phased withdrawal and the establishment of peace be carried out concurrently and over a lengthy period.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] We believe an agreement there is an element of a phased implementation and an element of reciprocity or interface [preceding word in English], as it was termed in a CNN interview—namely, the link between the implementation of withdrawal and the measure of peace dispensed during that phase. [end recording]

Meanwhile, it appears that not much will happen in the 13th round, and those who entertained the hope that the Israeli-Syrian talks will achieve a breakthrough in the spring now hope it will happen by the end of 1994 at the latest.

Two Palestinians Killed in Clashes With IDF

TA0502124294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] A 12-year-old boy, 'Ayman al-Suri, was killed this afternoon in the Jabalyah refugee camp when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fired at stone throwers. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning, two firebombs were hurled at IDF troops in Jabalyah and in Gaza city. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. A general strike was observed for the third consecutive day in the Gaza Strip today, in mourning for the death of the leader of the Fatah Hawks cell in Rafah, who was killed in a shootout with IDF soldiers.

Khayr Yusuf 'Abdallah, from the village of Bal'a in Samaria, was killed this morning by IDF gunfire when he attempted to flee his village, which was under curfew, in a car. The curfew was imposed in an attempt to locate stolen cars.

A youth was injured by soldiers' gunfire near al-Duhayshah refugee camp after breaking through an Army roadblock in his car.

Czech Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

TA0602143394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus has arrived on an official visit to Israel. An official ceremony was held at Jerusalem's Rose Garden and the visitor was received by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. During his visit to Israel, the Czech prime minister will meet Israel's president and the Knesset speaker. He will also hold working meetings with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other dignitaries. This evening, Mr. Rabin will host Prime Minister Klaus at a festive dinner which will be attended by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] first pilots and paratroopers who trained in the former Czechoslovakia during the War of Independence.

Reports of Nuclear Sales to Iran Denied

TA0702114294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The prime minister of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, has denied that companies in his country are selling nuclear technology, along with other weapons, to Iran. Speaking to reporters during the second day of his official visit to Israel, he was today lecturing at the Hebrew University. More from reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Dr. Vaclav Klaus, in his first visit to Israel, met this morning with his former economic adviser: the governor of the Bank of Israel, Ya'aqov Frenkel. Frenkel, in 1986 a senior official in the International Monetary Fund, helped Dr. Klaus to plan the new Czech Republic's emerging free market economy.

But reporters' first question to the visiting prime minister was about the charges that the Czech firm Skoda, one of the Czech Republic's largest companies, is selling nuclear technology, along with other weapons, to Iran.

[Klaus] Well, I must say those are just rumors and speculations usually created by the competition in the Western European countries, in the United States companies which want to catch the markets themselves and try in advance to send rumors to undermine the Czech position. Simply that's not true. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Iran Issues Letter on Beirut Murder, Embassy Staff

JN0502122794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 14

[Letter from "the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman"]

[Text] To the honorable chief editor of the SAWT AL-SHA'B newspaper:

The peace and blessings of God be upon you. Your esteemed newspaper on 31 January published an article on page 18 by Dr. Muhammad al-Mahasinah under the headline "Was Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah a Victim of Polarization or Peace?" In view of the errors contained in the article and given the freedom of the press and opinion, we would like to have the following explanation published with our thanks and appreciation.

Dealing with the difficult and critical situation in the Islamic world requires all of us to pool our efforts and remain vigilant to foil the plots by the enemies of the Islamic nation. This requires wariness and alertness in order to avoid being dragged behind the venomous and propagandistic media of world arrogance and Zionism that is aimed against the entire Islamic world. In this regard, writers should rise to their responsibility and be truthful and sincere, and to play their role in enlightening people and exposing these desperate attempts.

However, and with deep regret, certain people are contributing to strengthening the trend that serves our common enemy. Yet, we are certain that, although they make mistakes in analysis and interpretations, these pens do not have aims or ambitions other than to present their own views and to reveal facts.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman respects and appreciates such honest writers but will not remain silent toward those who do not appreciate the situation and who are unaware that they are serving sides that want to harm inter-Islamic relations, especially between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Therefore, we find it necessary to reply to what Dr. al-Mahasinah wrote in his article.

1. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran denounces and condemns the terrorist and cowardly act which led to the death of Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut. The embassy can only extend its sincere sympathy and condolences to his family and the sisterly Jordanian family as whole and to beseech God almighty to have mercy on his soul and to grant his family solace and patience.

2. It is a source of consternation that this article, which lacks objectivity and logic, should be written by a Jordanian figure of the status of Dr. al-Mahasinah, who is the professor of Law at the university. In his article, al-Mahasinah tried in vain to link this cowardly act with the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand on the so-called peace or with the issue of the reduction of the number of Iranian diplomats in Jordan.

How did he link these two issues, which have nothing to do with this criminal act, unless it was something out of his own creation and imagination? It is regrettable that in this regard, the voice of a Jordanian brother joined the voices of Westerners and Israelis who continue their feverish efforts to shake and confuse relations between Islamic countries in general, and countries in the region in particular.

Moreover, Dr. al-Mahasinah should not have announced his stand off the cuff. He should have waited until things became clear and facts became solid before leveling accusations at others. In order to put him in the picture along with others who do not know, we say that the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand toward the Zionist enemy is a principled and constant stand that will not change one iota under any circumstance. This stand was not developed yesterday or by chance. Indeed, it is older than the victorious Islamic revolution in Iran. History recorded the Islamic and principled stands adopted by Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his secret, throughout his life against the occupying enemy whether in the Shah's dungeons, in exile, or in power. Therefore, our stand toward what is now called the peace process emanates from this principled and deep-rooted stand.

As regards the issue of reducing the number of Iranian diplomats in Jordan, we would like to emphasize that the warm relations between the two fraternal countries, which are permeated by the spirit of brotherhood and love, are proceeding forward under the wise leaderships of the two countries.

For our part, we are concerned about maintaining these relations and we will not allow anyone to undermine them. From this particular premise, we say that the reduction of the number of diplomats is purely an organizational issue as stated by responsible quarters in Jordan. Here, we also reaffirm our concern about maintaining the higher interest of the two countries and about proceeding forward with these active relations no matter what the sacrifices are. We have no doubt at all that the Jordanian leadership shares the same feeling and that the recent statements by the wise leadership in Jordan are evidence of this. Hence, while we reiterate our deep regret about what was written outside the realm of logic, we ask the honorable and esteemed SAWT AL-SHA'B newspaper to be accurate and cautious more than ever before.

[Signed] The Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman

Embassy Source on Staff Reduction, Ties

JN0702100094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Feb 94 p 10

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] An authorized source at the Iranian Embassy in Amman has stated that the reduction in the number of Iranian diplomats in Amman will not negatively affect bilateral relations, adding that the Jordanian officials believe likewise. The source added: This is a principled stand adopted by the Jordanians and Iranians.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, the source, who preferred anonymity, added that this issue is a technical issue and comes within the framework of organization and acknowledged diplomatic actions.

The source said that the number and names of the diplomats affected by the reduction measure, as well as the date of their departure, have been communicated to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. However, he said he preferred not to divulge details of this matter to the press.

The Iranian source said that the Jordanian Government's request to reduce the number of Iranian diplomats is neither new nor unusual, but has been under discussion for some time. He said that relations between the two countries will develop under the leaderships of His Majesty King Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The source emphasized his country's eagerness to have delegations from both countries exchange visits since this will enhance bilateral relations, which is part of the Jordanian and Iranian officials' approach.

King Confers With al-Asad in Damascus, Returns

JN0602191894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, held a meeting in Damascus this afternoon. The meeting was attended by a number of ranking officials from both sides.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn expressed the sincerest condolences, in his name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its government, to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on death of his son Basil. King Husayn prayed that God would have mercy on Basil and give patience to his family.

King Husayn and President al-Asad then discussed various regional and international issues, particularly those dealing with the Middle East and developments in the region. The two leaders emphasized the need to continue bilateral contacts and coordination.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and the need to bolster and entrench relations in various fields based on the desire to maintain the interests of the two fraternal peoples, especially in this delicate stage of the nation's history.

His Excellency President al-Asad led those who received and saw off His Majesty King Husayn upon his arrival in, and departure from, Damascus. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this evening and was received at Amman Airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. [passage omitted]

King: Differences Delay Yemeni Accord Signing

JN0402193294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] King Husayn has said the signing of the Yemeni accord, which was supposed to take place in Amman on Sunday [6 February], has been postponed due to differences between the northerners and the southerners. King Husayn reiterated that Jordan will continue to exert efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. However, he added, some time is needed before reaching results.

Omani Minister Conveys Message to King, Departs

JN0302193394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Report by political affairs reporter Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received Mr. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs in Oman. He conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to his brother His Majesty King Husayn, dealing with matters of shared interest and Arab and world issues of mutual concern to the two brotherly countries.

Mr. Bin-'Alawi had this to say to Jordan television about the message and Oman's role in Arab fence-mending:

[Begin Bin-'Alawi recording] I communciated to His Highness Prince Hasan a message from his majesty the sultan to his brother his majesty the king. The message is a link in the chain of consultations that have marked the personal relationship between their majesties on matters related to joint Arab action, Arab solidarity, and other issues. Just like Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman wants to promote inter-Arab reconcilation. We hope both their majesties' efforts will yield results in order to advance the interests of the Arab nation. [end recording]

The Omani minister left Amman this afternoon concluding a visit to Jordan lasting several days.

On hand to receive and bid farewell to the minister were Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs; the director general and the chief of protocal at the Foreign Ministry; and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

Prince Hasan Holds Meeting With EC Team

JN0302194894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Report by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpt] Relations between Jordan and the EC were the focus of a meeting held today between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and an EC delegation. This is in addition to a review of the peace process and Jordan's role there, with the European team noting the need to extend political and economic support to Jordan to ease the burdens it is shouldering. [passage omitted]

King Comments Upon Return From Multistate Tour

JN0402210594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] His majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned home this afternoon following a trip which included visits to the United Kingdom, the United States, Croatia, and Austria. [passage omitted]

His majesty told the "News at Ten" that his talks with American leaders were characterized with openness and frankness.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I believe it was a very successful one and it came at a good time. It gave me the opportunity to meet not only with the President but with all the top officials there. It was characterized by openness and frankness, and I think a genuine desire, I note, to see our relations develop and grow and to give meaning to the word partnership in terms of the efforts of all to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in this region.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] During your many meetings in Washington, you reiterated Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement. Do you feel that there are pressures on Jordan to go ahead individually to sign a peace agreement?

[Husayn] I think I have suggested more than once that in the past,there were suggestions that Jordan should ratify a peace treaty then begin to negotiate the terms of the peace treaty. This has not been accepted by us, and it is not the right approach, in my view, at all. So, right now, I believe, we are engaged in discussing the items on the agenda, which are part of the process leading to the establishment of a final comprehensive peace between us.

[Al-Sha'ir] Your majesty, do you want to say anything about Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah's assassination in Beirut?

[Husayn] I am more than angered and more than saddened by this kind of vicious crime. We have paid dearly in blood in the past for our principles, our ideals, and our fight for life. And I do not think that there are any in this world who can intimidate this country. It is not an individual or a group of people that may fall. And that is normal, all of us are going to die some time, sooner or later. And it is all in God's hands. But nobody can murder a nation, and I think here we have a nation that stands proud and will continue to stand proud, and will never be intimidated by cowards and cowardly acts. [end recording]

King Reviews U.S. Relations

JN0402193194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Interview with King Husayn upon his return from a tour abroad by correspondent Kassab Samawi in Amman on 4 February—recorded]

[Text] [Samawi] Sir, would you tell us first about your trip to the United States. Are you satisfied with the results of this visit?

[Husayn] Praise be to God. Personally, my medical results are very satisfactory, according to what doctors told me. I need another checkup after six months, and then an annual checkup, as is the case with anybody. Praise be to God, the results are good. On the official level, my meetings with the U.S. President and the U.S. Administration were useful and addressed all important issues in this region. I felt, indeed, that there is resolve and determination to crystallize the concept of participation and turn it into joint action to reach the required results and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in this region. In our visit to Croatia, naturally, I was very happy to meet with the youth of the homeland while performing a great duty of peacekeeping as part of the international peacekeeping forces there. They have won the respect, love, and appreciation of everybody, all the parties for which they are providing security and a decent life. I believe it is a source of pride for us to know that we are the second largest force in the peacekeeping troops there, after France. This is a major role played by Jordan. This is not strange for this good country, in terms of its aspirations and objectives to see people live in freedom, dignity, and security, wherever they are.

[Samawi] Your Majesty, we observed that during your talks with the U.S. Administration, there was a focus on bilateral relations. To what degree has the United States shown understanding of Jordan's needs, in terms of foreign indebtedness and inspection at al-'Aqabah Port?

[Husayn] As a matter of fact, the results were satisfactory, and I felt that there is understanding and resolve to see warm relations once again. The word warm has been overused, but I mean to have good, strong relations, as they were one day, and perhaps stronger than in the past. There is a sure desire for support and backing on the part of the President and the Administration. It might take some time, but I believe the results will be satisfactory, God willing.

[Samawi] After the Arab-American summit meetings and in light of this flurry of activity on the peace process, are we close to achieving peace?

[Husayn] I cannot say for sure that we are that close to achieving peace, but I believe that the process is serious and I hope that we will see progress on all tracks in the coming phase. Naturally, I do not know everything about what happened in Davos, but we have to learn about all the details. There could be difficulties or obstacles from time to time, but I believe these could be overcome if everybody wants to achieve a peace that future generations accept.

Chief Delegate on Latest Round of Peace Talks

JN0602202094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and chief delegate to the bilateral peace talks, returned to Amman this evening for further consultations with the government.

Dr. al-Tarawinah spoke to Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] How would you assess this latest round of talks in Washington?

[Al-Tarawinah] I am not sure I can call it that. It was not so much the usual round of talks as one of consultations. It was a novel approach proposed by the sponsors as a way of injecting some flexibility. It may have also been meant to test intentions and pave the way for another round. It concluded Thursday [3 Febeuary] culminating two weeks of contacts between delegation heads. Beginning 15 February, We will hold further contacts using the same method of one-on-one sessions between chief delegates. The next round may last two or three weeks. The sponsors are happy with the way in which these latest consultations were conducted. All the delegations agreed to resume consultations on 15 February.

[Dhiyab] In this latest round, the news media was kept at bay, and it was limited to the chief delegates. What is the idea behind this?

[Al-Tarawinah] The news media is usually not let in on consultations. As I said, we are talking about a test of intentions. Each track has its own peculiarities. The Syrians and Lebanese are addressing the principles of negotiations. We and the Israelis have a joint agenda. We have not yet begun discussing the items on this agenda. The latest round was an opportunity for the chief delegates to discuss these items and points. The Palestinians were also there to talk about issues other than those being addressed at the ongoing negotiations in Taba, Cairo, Davos, Paris, and other places. Their contacts are being conducted with reference to a different agenda. As for us, we have insisted that the agenda be respected. However, in the absence of experts, we did not get down to details. We are waiting for the next round of consultations to see how to proceed in the future. We hope to be able to hold full sessions so that the process may begin in earnest. [end recording]

'Usefulness' of Further Rounds of Talks Questioned

JN0402121394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Feb 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Negotiations for the Sake of Negotiations"]

[Text] As expected, the 12th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations ended in Washington yesterday without achieving any progress on any of the tracks. This is due to the fact that the Israeli side is continuing its intransigent stands and policies, which lack a real desire to submit to the principles of international legitimacy.

It is well known that the 12th round was held after a four-month hiatus in the Arab-Israeli negotiations during which time many diplomatic efforts and contacts were exerted on the highest official levels in order to get the parties together again at the negotiating table in Washington. Hence, it was logical to believe that the results of this round should come as the crowning achievement of all these efforts and contacts.

However, certain things took place during the past two weeks—the timeframe for this round—as if the negotiations in Washington were a means in themselves. This was especially the case for the U.S. cosponsor, which exerted intensive diplomatic efforts to hold this round, even if was on the level of chief delegates, in order to keep the peace process alive in spite of Israeli signals that a step down the desired road would not be taken.

Moreover, although there is already talk about holding a new round of these negotiations in the middle of this month, we question the usefulness of continuing such rounds, which waste time and effort and whose lengthy sessions will not result in cracking open even a small hole in the wall of Israel's intransigent stand. We also question the purpose of continuing such rounds without any signs that their continuation will serve the interest of peace in the Middle East.

As we are already aware that the U.S. stand will continue to be that of an observer rather than an effective mediator, we doubt the use of continuing such a formula of negotiations, even if it takes place behind closed doors and away from the press and the media. This calls for a real review of the current policy of negotiations and an examination of more practical alternatives. Perhaps this would place the Middle East on the track of desired peace rather than the track of negotiations for the sake of negotiations.

U.S. Team To Visit, Discuss Change in Cargo Searches

JN0502120694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 94 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—An official U.S. delegation is expected to arrive here soon for further discussions on Jordan's proposal to move sea-based searches of cargo to the port of al-'Aqabah, informed sources said Friday [4 February].

They said the team would hold talks with senior officials on the mechanism and modalities of the proposed land-based inspections and report back to the Clinton administration, which has yet to take a policy decision on the issue.

The proposal was tabled during His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington in the third and fourth weeks of last month. Officials said the initial U.S. response was positive.

The plan calls for Lloyds Register of London to set up a base at al-'Aqabah to inspect all incoming and outgoing cargo for violations of the international sanctions against Iraq.

Until now, the inspections were conducted by U.S.-led warships patrolling the Red Sea, causing severe economic losses for Jordan, whose own imports are subject to the costly delays and higher freight charges levied by shipowners.

According to the sources, Lloyds Register representatives visited Washington last week to discuss the proposal in detail with administration officials.

Comments from U.S. naval officials in the Gulf indicated that the proposal was being circulated in U.S. military circles.

"It would be a step down for us," said Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole, spokesman for the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command headquartered in Bahrain. "We might leave one ship there for spot checking in the early stages."

The U.S. Navy usually maintains three ships in the Red Sea, focusing their attention on the Tiran Straits, the gateway to the Gulf of Aqaba. Other members of the international coalition which contributed forces to fighting Iraq out of Kuwait in early 1991 take part in the inspections on rotation.

The inspection forces, which took up place in August 1990 immediately after the U.N. Security Council imposed the sanctions against Iraq, have so far intercepted 19,350 ships, the bulk of them in the Red Sea.

Of these, 8,450 were actually boarded and inspected by American or coalition naval officers and 440 were denied total entry.

According to the sources, the next step after the American mission's visit to Jordan would be formulating a final mechanism to be in place at al-'Aqabah and recommending it to the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, who addressed the committee in New York on Jan. 27, has said, without specifically mentioning the proposal for land-based inspections, that he found the committee members willing to address Jordan's concerns.

According to Cmdr. Cole, the proposal also includes punitive measures against vessels found trying to violate the sanctions against Iraq.

"The (shipping of cargo) insurance would be forfeited if a ship is found to be in violation of the U.N. sanctions," instead of the diversions to nearby ports that was the maximum, penalty faced by ships boarded and inspected at the Tiran Straits, Cmdr. Cole said.

Shipping sources do not expect the new system to take effect in less than six months. It is also not clear who will bear the cost of Lloyds Register inspections.

However, the sources said, if worse comes to worst, Jordanian importers would pay the cost if only because that will be much cheaper for them than continuing to pay the extra $500 per 20-feet container and $15 per-tonne freight that they pay for al-'Aqabah-bound cargo.

"The total amount that will be paid to Lloyds will be less than 10 per cent of the overall Jordanian loss under the present conditions," said a shipping source.

Party Spokesman Says U.S. Threatened Government

JN0302113594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 2-3 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] In a news conference held yesterday to announce the establishment of the Pan-Arab Action Front Party [PAAF], Salim Suways, PAAF official spokesman, said his party denounces and condemns the recent acts of violence in the Jordanian arena, referring to yesterday's bomb blast in the Salwa movie theater in al-Zarqa' and last week's bomb blast in the Rivoli movie theater in Amman.

Suways said he has confirmed information and evidence, which he obtained one and a half months ago, indicating that the United States has sent a direct threat to the Jordanian Government. He said the threat hinted that the situation in Jordan will be turned into the situation that exists in certain sisterly Arab states (Egypt and Algeria) in terms of violence, chaos, and instability on the domestic front.

The threat, Suways says, aims to put pressure on the Jordanian Government in the peace process with Israel, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli tracks, and stop it from creating any obstacles that would hinder or slow down the process.

Suways also said the PAAF demands the Government to set up an inquiry into the corruption file opened by the health minister. The PAAF also urges the Jordanian House of Representatives to assume its role in defending the citizens by opening all cases of corruption, he said.

The PAAF's first statement says the PAAF rejects the Madrid Conference, the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, the agenda agreement between Jordan and Israel, and the Syrian-U.S. talks. It also says the PAAF will seek to abort the current talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Investigation Continues in Recent Cinema Bombings

Arrest of Five People Confirmed

JN0502114094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—Security authorities are questioning at least five people in connection with bombings at two movie theatres in the last two weeks. But officials are declining comment on whether there was any evidence to indicate that a single group was behind the two blasts.

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad confirmed the arrest of five people on Wednesday [2 February], one day after a bomb tore through the Salwa movie theatre in al-Zarqa, injuring two people, one of them seriously.

The minister said investigations were continuing and that investigators were keeping all possibilities open. Other sources said more arrests were made but did not disclose any details.

The Salwa blast followed a similar explosion on Jan. 26 at the Rivoli movie house in downtown Amman which injured seven people, one of them seriously.

The common features of the two bombings were that both occurred at establishments screening X-rated moves and the nature of the explosive devices were the same. In addition, the exact place where the bombs, described as crude homemade devices lacking any sophistication, was also the same—near the projection rooms.

More importantly, however, according to sources, the bombs were of the same type as that of devices removed and defused before they exploded at two liquor stores over the past six months. In turn, those devices appeared to have been built with the same technique that was used by the extremist underground group called Jaysh Muhammad (Muhammad's Army), the sources said.

"It is premature to point the finger at any specific group despite the common features of the explosive devices," said one source. "Anyone who ever worked with the Afghan Mujahidin could have learnt the technique."

Jaysh Muhammad is believed to comprise mostly of Jordanian volunteers who fought with the Afghan rebels and returned home after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1990.

Eighteen members of the group were found guilty of carrying out or plotting attacks against government officials, security officers, state buildings and foreign diplomats as well as liquor stores and night clubs in 1992.

Eight of them, including two in absentia, were sentenced to death. The death sentences, except those on the two at large, were commuted to life terms by His Majesty King Husayn.

Jaysh Muhammad was at one point alleged to be the "military wing" of the Muslim Brotherhood, but the Brotherhood has categorically denied any such link with the group.

According to experts on the Islamic movement in Jordan, Jaysh Muhammad was set up by hardliners who belonged to the Brotherhood who were disillusioned with what they saw as the leadership's moderate approach and confining the group to the mainstream political process in Jordan.

The Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Brotherhood, has denounced the Jan. 26 bombing saying violence was not the means to prevent cinemas from showing films that many see as incompatible with the conservative Jordanian society.

Two Confess to Theater Blasts

JN0602134094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has stated that the criminals who planted explosives at the Cinema Rivoli in Amman, Cinema Salwa in al-Zarqa', and the al-'Akrush Supermarket in the town of Safut have been apprehended. The explosive charge planted in Safut was discovered and defused, he noted.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, the interior minister added: Muhammad 'Ali Shihadah, alias Abu-'Abbad, a construction worker aged 26 years, and 'Id Salih al-Jahalin, a plumber aged 31 years, have admitted that they committed these crimes. They are part of a group that will be uncovered later.

Hammad went on to say that the apprehension of these two criminals was the result of remarkable and persistent efforts by the Public Security organs since these crimes occurred. He said that investigations are continuing to unearth the details of plans to undermine the homeland's security and stability.

Hammad said that these two criminals who perpetrated these crimes, which aimed to undermine the citizens' security, have connections with some persons who have returned from Afghanistan.

Concluding his statement, Hammad said: We take pride in our inspired leadership, which has always rendered us loyal soldiers of the homeland, eager to perform our duties. We pledge to this leadership to remain, as King Husayn has always known us, people who have faith in the message, and who will keep the trust.

Suspects Linked to 'Muhammad's Army'

JN0702114694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—Interior Minister Salameh Hammad on Sunday [6 February] announced that two people had confessed to planting the explosive devices that went off in two cinema theatres and said there was a broader plot to destabilise Jordan through subversion.

The minister's comments, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, indicated that the two suspects could be linked to an underground group called "Jaysh Muhammad" (Muhammad's Army) comprising mostly of Jordanians who returned home after fighting the 1980-90 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Mr. Hammad said the two, Muhammad 'Ali Shihadah, 26, a construction material salesman, and 'Id Salih al-Jahalin, 31, a plumber, had admitted to planting the explosive devices at Amman's Rivoli theatre on Jan. 26 and al-Zarqa's Salwa theatre on Feb. 1.

The two blasts injured at least seven people, including Mr. al-Jahalin who suffered serious wounds to the lower part of his body at the al-Zarqa' explosion.

The nature of Mr. al-Jahalin's injuries were such as they could have been sustained only from a position of close proximity, possibly while handling the explosive device which went off prematurely, sources said. As such, they said, he was an immediate suspect after his removal to hospital and details he provided upon interrogation led to other arrests.

First reports spoke of five people arrested last Wednesday, one day after the al-Zarqa' blast. More detentions were reported shortly thereafter.

Mr. Shihadah and Mr. al-Jahalin also admitted to have been behind another bomb which was safely removed at al-'Akrush Supermarket at Safut, northwest of Amman, last year.

"The criminals have confessed that they carried out these attacks," Mr. Hammad said, paying tribute to the "strenuous and relentless efforts of the Public Security Department" for the arrest of the suspects.

The suspects "are part of a group which will be disclosed later," the minister said. "They have links with some people who have returned from Afghanistan."

"Investigations are continuing to uncover other details and plots aimed at harming national security and stability," he added.

The two bombings at the two theatres known for screening X-rated movies, coupled with the discovery of the device planted at the Safut supermarket which sells alcohol, had immediately made religious extremists prime suspects.

The nature of the bombs, described as crude, homemade devices consisting of acetone peroxide, were the same as the type used by members of Jaysh Muhammad in some attacks in 1991. The bombmaking technique was believed to have been acquired by Jaysh Muhammad members during their fight alongside the Afghan Mujahedeen.

Most of the group's members are believed to be Jordanian volunteers who fought with the Afghan rebels and returned home after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1990.

Eighteen members of the group were found guilty in 1992 of carrying out or plotting attacks against senior government and security officials, state buildings and foreign diplomats as well as liquor stores and night clubs.

Eight of them including two in absentia, were sentenced to death. The death sentences, except those on the two at large, were commuted to life terms by His Majesty King Husayn.

Jaysh Muhammad was at one point reported to be the "military wing" of the Muslim Brotherhood, but the Brotherhood strongly denied any such link with the group.

According to experts on the Islamic movement in Jordan, Jaysh Muhammad was set up by hardliners who were once members of the Brotherhood but who quit the group after being disillutioned over what they saw as the leadership's moderate approach and confining the group to the mainstream political process in Jordan.

Some of the so-called Arab-Afghan veterans—Arab volunteers who fought in Afghanistan—remain in Pakistan as well as Afghanistan and are suspected to directing militancy in Algeria and Egypt.

Roundup of 4-7 Feb Clashes in Southern Region

Resistance Claims Attack on Convoy

NC0402190294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The resistance has announced that one of its units ambushed a joint convoy of the Israeli intelligence and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on the Bra'shit Road and inflicted casualties upon its personnel. The resistance also said that it detonated an explosive charge as an SLA military vehicle was passing on al-Bayyadah Road. [passage omitted]

Three SLA Soldiers Wounded

NC0502083194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Three South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were slightly injured when a mine exploded on the road between the villages of Markaba and Tallusah yesterday afternoon.

Another SLA force detonated a land mine which it had discovered in the Jazzin area yesterday morning. The SLA force suffered no casualties.

In the Western sector, an Israeli Army patrol came under terrorist fire. The patrol returned the fire. The patrol suffered no casualties.

Katyusha Rockets Fired at Security Strip

NC0502102794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] At 0800 today, the resistance fired six Katyusha rockets from the environs of Kafra toward the border strip. The rockets landed in the woods of 'Ayta al-Sha'b on the Lebanese-Israeli border. There have been no reports of casualties.

Mortar Rounds Hit SLA Post

NC0502113194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Bayt Lif in the western sector was hit by a number of mortar rounds this morning. The SLA soldiers manning the post suffered no casualties.

Areas Come Under Shelling

NC0602071094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the Nab' al-Safi basin, Wadi al-Akhdar, and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim came under intermittent artillery fire at dawn today. The shelling was accompanied by bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire from al-Suwayda' hill. The shelling took place following an attack launched by a resistance group against al-Suwayda' post in which rockets and automatic weapons were used.

Israelis Shell Areas

NC0702094494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] An agent force [South Lebanese Army] raked both sides of the road between the al-Khiyam junction and al-Hasbani Bridge. Israeli forces stationed in the 'Ayn Qinya hills opened heavy machine-gun fire on Mimis Bridge and the surrounding woods for 20 minutes at dawn today. They fired flares over the area, causing fires in groves nearby. The Israeli artillery bombarded the al-Rayhan woods in the Jazzin area this morning and columns of smoke could be seen billowing in the area.

Israeli military aircraft overflew the south, concentrating on al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, before midnight.

SLA, Israelis Exchange Fire With 'Saboteurs'

NC0702105194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] According to our military correspondent, the residential areas in Marj 'Uyun and al-'Ayshiyah are coming under rocket and artillery barrage originating form saboteurs' positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Israeli artillery are returning the fire at the saboteurs' artillery emplacements.

Israel Launches Air Raids

NC0702124994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1150 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The situation in south Lebanon is worrying. We are receiving reports every five minutes of Israeli warplanes overflying the region. We received a report 10 minutes ago that Israeli warplanes are raiding the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights after intensive reconnaissance sorties throughout the night and into the morning over al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, western al-Biqa', al-Luwayzah, Jarju', and the central sector.

We received a report two hours ago that the Israeli bombardment of villages in the south intensified and continued until 1300, targeting the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Arab Salim. At about 1330, Israeli warplanes flew intensively at low altitude over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah, staging mock raids. The Lebanese Army confronted the aircraft with anti-aircraft guns. Iqlim al-Tuffah areas and al-Luwayzah came under artillery barrage at 1100 from the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. Resistance men fired at the sources.

Israeli aircraft reconnoitered the region up to east Sidon and al-Nabatiyah, breaking the sound barrier. Israeli warplanes flew low over western al-Biqa' at about 1100, again breaking the sound barrier over al-Nabatiyah.

The resistance men this morning attacked an SLA position in Sujud with rockets and mortar and clashes ensued in which all types of weapons were used.

At 1350 today, Israeli warplanes raided the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, concentrating on al-Luwayzah, for the second time today.

Just in from the south, Israeli military aircraft are flying low over the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights and Lebanese Army ground anti- aircraft guns are confronting them. The resistance fired surface- to-air Strella missiles at the Israeli aircraft, causing panic in the region and making the people believe the Israeli aircraft had launched a new raid.

Further on Israeli Air Raids

NC0702121294 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1152 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Just in from the newsdesk. We have a report about the security situation in the south. Dani Nur-al-Din, our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, has just told us that Israeli warplanes are raiding positions in the al-Zahrani River basin and the periphery of Jabal al-Rayhan.

The raiding planes have made four sorties.

Our correspondent also says that Lebanese Army anti-aircraft guns in al-Nabatiyah are confronting the raiding Israeli planes. Over the telephone, we can hear the sound of heavy gunfire and the explosions of shells dropped by the Israeli aircraft.

Hizballah Kills 3 Israelis, Wounds 3

NC0702121594 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Feb 7 (AFP)—Hizballah guerrillas killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded three others in south Lebanon on Monday, triggering retaliatory air strikes, security sources said.

The ambush took place as an Israeli patrol drove along a road in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, the sources said.

The attack was claimed by the pro-Iranian Hizballah.

Shortly afterwards Israeli warplanes raided Hizballah positions near the south Lebanon port city of Sidon, the sources said.

[In an earlier, related report, Paris AFP in English at 1135 GMT on 7 February, stated the following: "Guerrillas attacked an Israeli army patrol with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons on Monday wounding six soldiers, security sources in south Lebanon said.

["The ambush took place as the patrol drove along a road in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, the sources said.

["A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, the armed wing of the Hizballah movement, told AFP in Beirut that its guerrillas destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank, killing or wounding an unspecified number of Israeli soldiers.

["Two other bomb attacks on patrols from the Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army militia (SLA) caused no casualties.

["Guerrillas also fired 10 Katyusha rockets on the outskirts of Marj 'Uyun, where Israeli forces and the SLA have their south Lebanon headquarters, but nobody was hurt, the SLA said.

["Hizballah and the pro-Syrian Amal movement carry out frequent raids against Israeli forces in south Lebanon.

["The pace slowed down ahead of the January 16 Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and US President Bill Clinton, but there have been around 20 attacks since."]

Israeli Planes Carry Out Raid

NC0702125094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1237 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk: Our correspondent in the south has reported that a short time ago, Israeli warplanes raided 'Ayn Bu Siwar in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, firing two rockets at the area.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Israeli Attacks, Plans

NC0402183094 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Statement issued by Hizballah; place and date not given]

[Text] The recent statements and threats by several Zionist officials, which coincide with the continuing escalation of attacks against the southern areas, reveal premeditated and grave Zionist designs. These designs aim to prepare for wide-scale military operations under the pretext of defending Zionist security, which is being threatened by the continuing resistance operations.

Needless to say, the Zionist enemy has not and will not give up its expansionist designs and aggressive policy. The Zionist officials' talk about peace is only an overt maneuver to conceal the terrorist plans being carried out against the south, the Western al-Biqa', and the occupied Palestinian land.

The Zionist enemy leaders are searching for excuses to escalate the situation and drive matters toward the brink of war. The Zionist leaders believe that the threats could twist the arm of the mujahidin and those resisting the policy of aggression. They also think that their threats could prompt the international community to make efforts to pacify the situation by taking into consideration the Zionist security concerns.

However, we believe that this Zionist method has been exposed and that the enemy should never talk about security concerns as long as it continues its occupation and attacks. Occupation cannot provide the enemy with security. This is possibly what the enemy wants so that the occupation might become a fait accompli recognized, even implicitly, through the destruction of the resistance role.

Resistance is a continuous embodiment of our people's rejection of this occupation and its results, like the fait accompli and the arrangements, which are indeed a recognition of this occupation.

Hence, we call on everyone, particularly those who hope that peace is imminent, not to wager on the enemy's claims and designs. We also call on them to be more truthful with their people and citizens. We tell them that before talking about Lebanon's readiness to join the peace, if it ever happens, they should talk about full preparations to confront the possibilities of a new war that might be launched by the Zionist enemy so that no one will be surprised.

We ask about the preparations for confrontation and steadfastness. What has the Lebanese Government done on this serious task? Where has the talk about the support for the south and southerners gone? Does the way to prosperity in Lebanon come through the purchase of shares in Solidaire or through steadfastness in the south and the confrontation of the continuous threats against the people, land, and waters? Prosperity can only come through strong faith and full readiness to offer sacrifices for the sake of regaining every iota of cherished soil that is being occupied by the Zionists.

Lebanese Forces Denounce Arrests, 'Political Repression'

NC0202111494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Text] The repeated detentions of scores of Lebanese Forces [LF] personnel and officials on flimsy grounds and excuses harms the national accord, violates the laws and the Constitution, and disrupts social peace. Because of this and LF's eagerness to place a number of facts before Lebanese officials and the public, the LF would like to ask the state what has become of the accord and understanding agreement. Is the agreement to end the war and begin a new chapter still valid or is there a decision to disregard it? If a decision has been made to retreat on the accord and understanding agreement, who made this decision and in whose interest?

The LF reminds everybody that the war in Lebanon is over and that the Lebanese, who have paid dearly for this war, have the right to be treated accordingly by their own state. The state should help them speed up the move toward the peace era instead of giving the impression that it is responsible for continuing the atmosphere of tension, fear, and the painful legacy of the past.

The LF would like to ask about the fate of the general amnesty law and wonders if there is a need to create incidents that are mostly fabricated, unsubstantiated, twisted, and erroneously interpreted to serve narrow and cheap political goals? The LF would like to ask the state if what is being applied is a policy of reconciliation or a settling of accounts and the use of brute force? The Lebanese have a right to know from the state who is responsible for undermining the accord and understanding agreement and what are the measures adopted to straighten things out.

The LF emphasizes that the way it is being treated reflects a policy that smacks more of political repression than an exercise of authority against a political current that enjoys broad public support. Under this policy, unjust and unreasonable methods are being used, taking advantage of its institutions and agencies.

The LF, which has long been calling for the need to turn the page on the past and proceed to build a future, renews the call to renounce negative, malicious, and narrow-minded policies and the settling of accounts and to rise above factional and narrow interests. It calls on the Lebanese state to realize its role and responsibilities in this regard by helping all Lebanese to pursue a positive line instead of acting in a negative manner that runs contrary to laws, charters, constitutions, and norms.

Official on Reasons for Detentions

PM0402165494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Security Source Explains the Detentions and Reveals Capture of 'Israeli Sabotage Ring'"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—An official security source has explained the facts relating to the detentions carried out in several areas and affecting people of various affiliations. He said that the detentions were made "in the course of the continuous daily efforts of the Lebanese security organs which have recently succeeded in capturing an Israeli sabotage ring run by elements spread between Beirut and the occupied border strip."

The source emphasized to AL-HAYAH that the work of the Lebanese security organs "is not linked to any particular date, time, or place. Their task is to maintain security and ward off any threat to internal security, and it covers all security violations." [passage omitted]

He said that the pursuit and storming operations "have, contrary to the claims made by some, not been targeting any particular group. We tackle security issues on the sole basis of security and we let justice take its course and pronounce the verdict. The proof is that the security authorities have in recent weeks carried out a number of operations not restricted to any particular area but covering most Lebanese provinces." [passage omitted]

He said that the position recently taken by the Lebanese Forces' Central Information Bureau regarding the detentions and maintaining that they undermined national accord and the law "came after the security authorities detained some individuals who divulged some information in connection with the explosion targeting the Lebanese Army camp in Rumiyah years ago. Some admitted that they had been instructed by certain security officials to gather information regarding the movements of state officials, foremost among them President Ilyas al-Hirawi."

The source asked: "Are we the department which decides whether the general amnesty law should cover these people or should justice take its course and determine their fate, particularly as some of them have confessed that they were instructed by a special security organ to gather information for we know not whom?" [passage omitted]

He referred to the ring which worked for Israel, most of its members having been arrested before the end of last month. They used to gather information and move between Beirut and the security belt. He asked: "Are the security organs not supposed to interrogate those people or refer them to the military investigating magistrate, bearing in mind that some of them made clear and frank confessions?"

The source urged all parties "not to pass haphazard judgements and to wait for the truth to come out before taking stands harmful to themselves and before requesting dismissal of the charges, release of the detainees, and discontinuation of the pursuit of wanted persons."

He said that any charge made against any detainee "should not be taken as a charge against the party he belongs to." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Peace Process, Syrian Presence

JN0402170594 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 19

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by Fatimah Faqih in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Faqih] What is the impact of the Clinton-al-Asad summit meeting on the integration of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the forthcoming round of negotiations?

[Dallul] The summit of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian Arab President Hafiz al-Asad was mainly based on the integration between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. Furthermore, I say that this summit—and there is no illusion in what I say—is the result of this physical integration of the Lebanese-Syrian level, and the coordination and consultation with the Jordanian track. This integration of the Arab tracks, despite the deviation of Palestinian brothers from the semi-Arab consensus, forced all who deal with the dossier of the Middle East negotiations to follow a distinguished new approach with the Arab parties directly concerned with the negotiations.

In other words, the steadfastness of the Syrian and Lebanese front, and to some extent, the steadfastness of the Jordanian front, have been the basis of the political developments that were crowned by the Clinton-al-Asad summit in Geneva.

All those concerned with the Middle East negotiations on all levels became aware that the political breakthrough they made on the Arab tracks, and precisely through the Gaza-Jericho agreement, was not enough to make a settlement, even a distorted one, on the Palestinian track itself, so how can this be the case with the other tracks? The deformed agreement that is called the Gaza-Jericho agreement does not represent even a small portion of the Palestinian people's aspirations, so how can this be the case with our Arab nation's aspirations for comprehensive, just, and real peace?

Briefly, I say we and Syria have not been apart in very serious circumstances. Therefore, we will not be apart today after we reaped together the result of our steadfastness and integration.

[Faqih] How will the positive atmosphere be translated on the negotiations table? Are there assurances on pressuring Israel in order to advance the Lebanese and Syrian tracks?

[Dallul] Our only assurance for employing pressure on Israel is through continued integration of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. This is the only guarantee for reaching a just and honorable solution. Some quarters tried to ignore or even to delay negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, and some international and regional forces tried to undermine the size of Syria and Lebanon in the settlement. They also tried to inflate the size of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in order to overshadow the whole cause, but we, on the Lebanese side as well as on the Syrian side, stressed that Palestine is an Arab cause, therefore, it concerns all Arabs, and no party, whoever they might be, has the right to say that this cause is his particular cause or his area, in which he deals in the manner he deems appropriate.

[Faqih] What is the role of the U.S. full partner?

[Dallul] We have no illusions about this. The U.S. partner has declared its full bias to Israel. During the main phases of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the United States financed and even supported all Israel's wars against the Arabs. Furthermore, it provided an international and political cover for the Zionist state. But I speak now about the U.S. interest in all of this, and in this particular stage. Now the United State is the sole superpower in the international political arena, therefore, what interest do the American people have in antagonizing Arabs, who have huge human and economic capabilities? What interest does the United States have in supporting Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, for instance? I ask this question about U.S. interests, and I do not find convincing answers that call for continued U.S. adoption of the aggressive Israeli policy. Therefore, I assume that the United States is heading for a change in its alliances. I do not have facts indicating any major change in this field, but what is needed is to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict with some objectivity.

[Faqih] Does Lebanon still stick to its position not to participate in multilateral negotiations unless progress was realized in the bilateral negotiations?

[Dallul] Lebanon still sticks to this point in particular and refuses to participate in the multilateral negotiations. We do not have any other formula for negotiations other than the current formula.

[Faqih] Suppose Israel proposed a joint committee with Lebanon in exchagne for a commitment to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 425? How would you react? How do you envisage the work of such a committee? Will you approve of the security arrangements? What role would the Lebanese Army play? And what will become of Hizballah and the resistance and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] ?

[Dallul] Resolution 425 provides for an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories not linked to security arrangements or a military committee with the Israeli enemy. Lebanon has publicly rejected any security arrangements with Israel. We have made our rejection of any joint military committee known as well.

The Lebanese Army is now set to deploy in all Lebanese territories, including those under Israeli occupation. As for the weapons in the hands of Hizballah and the resistance, the areas where the Lebanese military deploys will be off limits to any other weapons. As for what you call the SLA, we have never recognized it. For us, it is outside national legitimacy. We will deal with it accordingly.

[Faqih] Assuming Antoine Lahd recognized the l-Ta'if accord and the SLA surrendered their weapons to the state, is it possible that it would end up the way other militias did? Would the other parties and forces agree to absorb some 3,000 agents?

[Dallul] There is no comparison between the SLA and other Lebanese militias. These militias have fought each other for many years and for a variety of reasons, each adhering to what it viewed as its own princples. But none of these have strayed outside their Lebanese fold, or sold out to the devil the way the SLA have. In any case, Lebanon has its judicial and legal authorities that will decide the way to handle the SLA.

[Faqih] Has a link been established between Israel and the recent explosions in al-Sayfi and the attempt on the life of the Lebanese president? Don't you think such leaks are detrimental to Lebanon's credibility?

[Dallul] In criminology, we first look for who stands to gain most from a crime. In the case of a homeland, the evidence is usually more conclusive and damning. Lebanon is going through a state of growth and recuperation, and is emerging from a terrible civil war. There are ongoing attempts to restore credibility in Lebanon, with powerful forces working in the opposite direction. If the military confrontations are over, there is still a more ferocious battle that we have to fight, and that is the struggle for peace in Lebanon, for the Lebanese people's civilizing, cultural, democrätic, and economic roles.

The rehabilitation effort is attended by compelling and destructive circumstances, pressure, and siege on all sides. In our battle for peace our weapons are not that many. The only weapon we have is the will and determination to build.

There are attempts to undermine the confidence we are seeking to restore to Lebanon's security and economy and to kill the saplings before they put forth their leaves, with the object of wrecking all that we have built and scrapping the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Faqih] Who will benefit from this?

[Dallul] The crime leads to the criminal. In any case, it is not far removed from Israel, although the direct perpetrator is not necessarily an Israeli.

[Faqih] Will the negative stands affect the pope's visit to Lebanon? Can the Lebanese security organs protect the pope?

[Dallul] There were no negative stands regarding the pope's expected visit to Lebanon. Some political sides declared political stands regarding this visit and expressed their desire that the Vatican maintains a balanced policy vis-a-vis the Middle East issue. However, there were no negative stands in the full sense of the word.

With regard to the capability of the Lebanese organs to protect the pope, it is certain that our organizations can provide such protection with efficiency. Those who can protect the entire homeland can protect its guests, even if the guest is the pope.

[Faqih] Is the Syrian presence in Lebanon subject to discussion?

[Dallul] There is no such problem as the Syrian presence in Lebanon. This presence came in response to an official and popular legitimate Lebanese request to confront the plot against Lebanon and the Lebanese. This presence contributed in a basic fashion to stability in Lebanon and to reaching this situation.

I say this presence was a solution, not a problem; it was a solution that stopped the bloodshed and brought an end to the fire that was spreading to every street, house, and village in Lebanon. This presence created a suitable atmosphere to lay down the bases of peace.

[Faqih] If Israel withdraws all its forces from southern Lebanon, can the Lebanese Army, with its limited capabilities, control the entire border and prevent infiltrations and fedayeen operations that would renew tension on the borders?

[Dallul] First, I would like to assert that the Lebanese Army can protect the Lebanese borders with its capabilities, which we are trying to develop. The capabilities of the Lebanese Army are not as limited as some people might think. This army stood up in the face of the recent Israeli aggressions and resisted them, with its available potentials—with its hands, weapons, and determination. The army's determination is an important weapon. The decision of steadfastness and fighting is the most important weapon. Yes, this army can protect the Lebanese borders. With regard to the fedayeen operations, these operations are launched because dear parts of our land are still under Israeli occupation. So, when this occupation ends, there will be no need for fedayeen operations.

[Faqih] It has been reported recently that there will be government change or reshuffle following the Geneva summit?

[Dallul] Why should there be a change or a reshuffle following the Geneva summit? I see no reason for this, although the possibility of a government change in Lebanon exists under less important circumstances. This government will be changed when the reasons for its continuation have ended. This is not an important issue. People are not as important as the policy of the government or the general outlines governing its trends.

Interior Minister Views UK Talks, al-Ta'if Process

PM0202113694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p2

[Interview with Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij by 'Ali al-Ruzz and Bisharah Shirbil in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Have your meetings with British officials produced any specific agreements?

[Mirhij] I held wide-ranging talks covering the possibility of supplying Lebanon with arms, equipment, helicopters, coast guard requirements, rescue boats, light weapons, communication equipment, and various means of transport. The talks were held in the commercial way used traditionally between states. We sensed a British interest in strengthening economic ties and in playing a part in the region. We also sensed a British interest in the Lebanese market as a key to the region and beyond. They appreciate the Lebanese activity abroad and know that the goods it receives become popular.

[AL-HAYAH] Did the British officials show no inclination to provide financial or technical aid?

[Mirhij] The talks were held on a selling and buying basis but the British expressed willingness to provide facilities if deals were concluded. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view the process of reconciliation between the various sects?

[Mirhij] It means nothing. Thr reconciliation should be among all the Lebanese because there are differences within each sect. Sectarian solutions only confirm the old disease. I hope that what I have said will not be interpreted to mean that I am against good relations within each sect and between sects, for that is a binding moral and humanitarian necessity.

[AL-HAYAH] Is the cabinet now an institution as stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement or is it still controlled by the "troika"?

[Mirhij] The cabinet is in the process of becoming an institution. This road is full of challenges but there is no alternative to it because when the cabinet becomes an institution it will be fulfilling everyone's rights and will be a guarantee for everyone. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] How do you view the president's call for the amendment of the al-Ta'if agreement in connection with the powers of the presidency?

[Mirhij] The al-Ta'if document represents the political ceiling in a dangerous phase in Lebanon's life and it has achieved some kind of political balance and, more importantly, national accord on the basis of which the state has been rebuilt. That is why that formula should be preserved and protected by all means.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you in favor of the literal implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement?

[Mirhij] Yes, and after implementation we can improve from within. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Have their been any operations against Syrian checkpoints?

[Mirhij] There have been some attempts against some position and the culprits have been arrested.

[AL-HAYAH] Amnesty International has talked about torture of detainees.

[Mirhij] I have no official information that anyone has been tortured. Let me say that such attempts in fact target stability and not the legal and legitimate Syrian presence which is objectively and strategically needed. Resisting the Syrian Army in this connection means resisting the supreme national interest.

[AL-HAYAH] There are those who claim that there has been an arrangement to ensure that the Syrian presence is not terminated.

[Mirhij] It will be a different matter when Lebanon is united and its institutions well established. The Syrians are helping Lebanon build its institutions because that is in their interest.

[AL-HAYAH] What about political decisions?

[Mirhij] Political decisionmaking in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement has eliminated the possibility of conflict with the Syrian position and pushed toward integration. For instance, how would we have confronted the Israeli ambitions had there been no Lebanese-Syrian solidarity?

[AL-HAYAH] If the challenges of negotiations with Israel necessitated a Lebanese-Syrian confederation, would you agree?

[Mirhij] I am for any close integral political links that serve Lebanon, confirm its existence, and contribute to the liberation of its territory from occupation and the rebuilding of its state. What is going on now is the consolidation of the fraternity treaty and the building of its institutions. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Are you continuing to grant citizenship to whomever it is due to?

[Mirhij] That is a commitment under the al-Ta'if agreement and the cabinet statement. We want to carry it out whatever the difficulties and complications.

[AL-HAYAH] What about Palestinian rights?

[Mirhij] Relations with the Palestinians are at their best. We always meet with them and facilitate their work as much as possible. There are some problems regarding the practice of certain professions such as medicine, engineering, and law. Apart from that, we help them in all fields.

[AL-HAYAH] There are those who use a racist language against the Palestinians.

[Mirhij] There is such a thing but we are fighting it. The Palestinians are our brothers and they have suffered and have been the victims of international ambitions and the Zionist movement. It is our duty to do our best to help them. Sometimes there is failure. That happens with our own people but it is something we are continuously trying to surmount and not a position we take.

Al-Hirawi Leaves for Ivory Coast President's Funeral

NC0602094394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut for the Ivory Coast at 0930 today to attend the funeral of the late Ivory Coast president, Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The president is accompanied by Ministers Faris Buwayz, Anwar al-Khalil, Muhammad Bassam Murtada, and deputies Ahmad 'Ajami and Ghassan Matar. He is also accompanied by a delegation of media representatives and a number of officers. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Arrives for Meeting With al-Asad

JN0602184494 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in Damascus at 1215 today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at the airport. [passage omitted]

After his majesty the king shook hands with the ministers and staff of the Jordanian Embassy in Damascus, the president and his guest headed in an official motorcade for the People's Palace where they held a meeting. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn offered his condolences to the president on the death of Staff Major Paratrooper Engineer Basil al-Asad, whose death is a loss to the homeland. Their talks covered the Middle East peace process in light of the talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva and the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and President Clinton in Washington, and also in light of the recent Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. Discussion also dealt with the situation in the Arab arena.

King Husayn Departs

JN0602181994 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1800 today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off at the airport. Also present were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the ministers, Jordan's ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 6 Feburary adds that al-Asad held a luncheon banquet in honor of King Husayn attended by senior Jordanian and Syrian officials].

President al-Asad Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister

JN0702143894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad all-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Geneva Summit Defines Nature of Peace

JN0302151994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has admitted that Syria is serious about the establishment of peace and that it has always honored its commitments and obligations. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres cast doubts about the possibility of achieving a true breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track because, as he put it, the Syrian ice has not yet thawed. In fact, Peres and other Israeli officials are making contradictory statements every day and deliberately casting doubt about Syria's peaceful intentions.

The Geneva summit, which has given strong momentum to the peace process and, according to Peres himself, breathed new life into the peace process, has proved Syria's credibility to the entire world. This is demonstrated by the fact that all U.S. officials, led by President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher, have praised Syria's positive and constructive stand and its determined effort to build a just, comprehensive Middle East peace. This is also demonstrated by the fact the entire international community has praised President Hafiz al-Asad's genuine interest in peace and his call to establish the peace of the brave in the region. Such a peace requires Israel to rise to the level of the aspirations of the region and the world.

Syria agreed to hold the current talks in Washington in appreciation of the U.S. role and in the hope that Israel will change its previous policies, put an end to the policy of intransigence and maneuvering, and respond to the UN security Council resolutions regulating the peace process. Right from the first session, the head of the Israeli delegation to Washington said the talks were held in a businesslike atmosphere. However, the Israeli officials soon tarnished this positivity with their negative statements. Following an Israeli request, it was agreed to hold the Washington talks away from the media. This is understandable, since it is known that the Israeli rulers call for secret negotiations. However, Israeli officials are making statements daily that cast doubt on the Washington talks.

Insisting on playing the same tune, Israeli officials still demand a definition of the nature of peace, despite tha fact that the Geneva summit clearly specified the nature of peace and stressed Syria's readiness to implement all requirements of a just, comprehensive regional peace.

However, definitely running amid noise and clamor and deliberately raising doubts in all directions, Israeli officials want a separate deal that is closer to a spectacle than to a peace, such as the Oslo agreement. Brought about by secret talks, the Oslo agreement has faced, and its still facing, obstacles.

If there is any positivity in the current Washington talks, then it is definitely the result of the positive Syrian position, not the Israeli position, which has not yet rid itself of the policy of maneuvering and procrastination. Syria has expressly declared its readiness to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region and to abide by all its requirements. But has Israel declared its readiness to enforce UN Security Council resolutions and to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights? Syria is still awaiting the answer.

If there is any ice, then it is definitely on the Israeli side, rather than on the Syrian side. If Rabin admits that Syria is serious about the establishment of peace, what prevents Israel, knowing that the ball is now at its court, from declaring commitment to full withdrawal, instead of casting doubt, raising its endless security fears, and threatening to hold a referendum on the Golan and peace with Syria?

At this point, we recall statements by Rabin and other Israeli officials that Israel will not declare readiness to withdraw from the Golan before Syria defines the nature of peace. The Geneva summit defined the nature of peace. The world is still awaiting a statement by Israel on its readiness for full withdrawal.

Peace in the region is a matter of occupied territories and usurped rights. Consequently, peace requires an end to occupation and the restoration of land and rights. Unless it is just and comprehensive, peace in the region stands no chance of lasting. Certainly, peace is not separate deals made behind the scenes, evading the hopes and aspirations of the region's countries. Peace cannot mean capitulation to Israel and an acknowledgement of the legitimacy of its occupation and settlements.

Syria will always adhere to a just, comprehensive peace. It will never budge from this stand. No one in the world will blame Syria for this brave stand. Nay, the world supports Syria's quest for a just, comprehensive peace, especially since the world has seen the failures of separate deals. Undoubtedly, the world is expecting Israel to adopt the long-awaited positive stand.

Commentary: Israel Responsible for Obstructing Peace

JN0602163094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The bilateral talks at the level of heads of delegations held in Washington since 24 January ended without any progress in the Middle East peace process. After two weeks of continued talks, Israel asked that these talks be suspended until 25 February. This shows the Israeli position is still the same in terms of intransigence, procrastination, and prevarication. It still adheres to all the obstacles threatening the peace process and continues to adopt proposals and ideas that will not achieve real, durable, and comprehensive peace. This is revealed by Israeli assertions that issues have not reached fruition on the Israeli side and that circumstances are not yet conducive to achieving peace. No doubt, these flimsy pretexts conceal an Israeli attempt to sabotage the peace process, striking at its roots via a well-known policy of extending the period of talks and considering talks an end in themselves.

These Israeli efforts cannot be separated from practices designed to obstruct the peace process and to lay traps in its path. This is revealed by the Israeli Government's decision to expand two settlements in the Golan and to allow settlers to carry out this expansion with government support and sponsorship. No other evidence is needed that Israel does not want peace. These practices and positions all show, either directly or through impressions and maneuvering, that Israel still refuses to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Israel is hostile to the resolutions of international legitimacy that demand its withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Israel is being hostile to peace and is contradicting it. Even in its separate deal known as the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel is still procrastinating, prevaricating, and avoiding implementation.

Furthermore, the secret Oslo deal is still blocked, facing Israeli obstacles. Events and developments prove the Israeli plans cannot lead to the desired peace—a peace that secures the region's security and stability.

Hence, we believe that the Israeli positions and practices threaten not just the peace process, but also place the region in a state of continued disturbance and tension and spread an atmosphere of pessimism and darkness. Israel alone is responsible for this disturbed and worrying situation. It is responsible for the possible consequences of such a situation in terms of complications and reactions. This is because Israel's waste of the available peace opportunities has not been a coincidence. Each time, this has happened after careful considerations and planning. This is reaffirmed by Israel's refusal, inside and outside the talks, to speak about a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and by its refusal to stop settlement activities which are a manifestation of the occupation. This is also reaffirmed by Israel's refusal to comply with the basics and formula of the Madrid conference and by its disavowal of the principle of restoring the land in return for peace.

The continued Israeli rejection of all this is a rejection of peace and its requirements and of the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is because whoever is concerned about peace does not prevaricate, procrastinate, or deceive.

Any Compromise on Golan Said 'Out of Question'

JN0702102994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Defiance," TISHRIN says: When the Israelis do not wish to understand, they exhibit an amazing ability to defy all facts. Thus, they are dealing with the outside world as if it is blind, deaf, and mute. In an interview with CNN, the Israeli prime minister said he did not directly or indirectly hear that Syria is prepared for full peace, adding that he knows, however, what Syria wants from Israel in return for peace.

TISHRIN continues: Although Syria never conceals its resolve to restore the occupied Golan, it has for years stressed adherence to the establishment of a just, comprehensive Middle East peace. Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, Syria has renewed this assertion hundreds of times. The recent Geneva summit was one occasion when Syria clearly explained its concept of peace and its nature. It also voiced its readiness to honor all peace requirements. Moreover, through President al-Asad, Syria called for concluding the peace of the brave. It also urged the Israeli leaders to rise to the level of the cause of peace and to have the necessary courage to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region and remove the Middle East from the cycle of war and conflicts.

TISHRIN continues: It sounds odd that while the entire world is convinced of Syria's credibility and honest quest for peace, praises its efforts and initiative, and values its stands, the Israeli rulers find no reason to be convinced. The paper notes Rabin's recent statement in which he said: We do not know what kind of peace will be agreed on, and to where we will pull out. The paper says: It must be reasserted that Syria is looking for a just, comprehensive peace; a durable, stable peace; a genuine peace that ends occupation and restores rights to their owners; a peace that is acceptable to the current Arab generations and worthy of being maintained by future generations. Such a peace must be honorable and must uproot injustice, oppression, and occupation.

TISHRIN explains that such a peace requires Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan. It says that Syria has frequently asserted that it will never bargain over an iota of the Golan soil nor will it relinquish an inch of it. Any compromise, which Israel wants, is absolutely out of question. The Golan Heights are Syrian and have been since time immemorial. They should be returned to the motherland and to their evacuated population, who are awaiting the establishment of peace to return to their homes.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace in the Middle East is no longer exclusively a Syrian or Arab issue. Rather, it is a world issue. The world will not allow that a unique peace opportunity be destroyed. Two years of Israeli intransigence have so far failed to destroy this opportunity.

Afghanistan

Government Protests to Uzbekistan on 'Interference'

LD0402182494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Note issued by the Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As evidence and precise reports convey, the Republic of Uzbekistan Government continues its interference, in various forms, against the Muslim people of Afghanistan and national sovereignty of the ISA [Islamic State of Afghanistan]. For instance, this interference has clearly been felt since the beginning of the current fighting in Afghanistan. Relations and good-neighborliness taken into account, the ISA brought this issue to the attention of the related authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in a friendly manner through diplomatic channels, and was expecting such interference to be prevented.

But, unfortunately, against the expectation of the ISA and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, not only was this interference not stopped, but it was intensified. The ISA strongly protests against such interfering acts by Uzbekistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which demonstrate the unfriendly policy of that country, and is against the UN Charter and all internationally accepted current norms and principles, and demands from the authorities of that country to seriously refrain from the repetition and continuation of such interference which will have grave consequences for and negative impact on the relations of the two neighborly countries. Otherwise, the ISA cannot remain indifferent toward such interference.

Government Planes Bomb Dostam Militia Airports

LD0502150694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Airplanes of the Islamic State of Afghanistan Air Force bombarded civilian and military airfields of Dostam's militia in the area surrounding Mazar-e Sharif. A Ministry of National Defense source told BIA's military correspondent that fighter planes of the country's air force inflicted crushing blows at civilian and military airfields and installations in the area surrounding Mazar-e Sharif today. As a result of those successful operations, the runways of the airfields have been completely destroyed, and planes and installations in the fields have been heavily damaged. During the successful operation, dozens of militia, stationed in the airfields, have been killed, and one fuel store of the militia was set ablaze.

Two Militia Commanders Killed in Faryab Province

LD0502173294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Two commanders of Karmal-Dostam's infamous militia were killed recently in Faryab Province. Sources of the Armed Forces told BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military correspondent: As a result of the successful operations by the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army, dozens of militia including two of their commanders—Nasim Chapaw and Zar Alam—were killed, and many areas have been cleared of Dostam's militia. According to another report, Gol Mohammad, known as Gol Pahlawan, brother of Rasul Pahlawan [Dostam's commander in Meymaneh, capital of Faryab], has been seriously wounded in a confrontation with mojahedin in Faryab Province.

India

Leaders Counter Pakistan's Charges on Kashmir

BK0402133194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] India has charged Pakistan with adopting a conscious policy of ethnic cleansing of religious minorities. In a hard hitting statement in Geneva, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said discrimination against the minorities is in-built in Pakistan's Constitution. Terming Islamabad's record on human rights as abysmal, he observed that Pakistan's championship of the cause of Kashmiris lacks credibility. Dr. Manmohan Singh said Pakistan continues to remain in illegal occupation of one-third of Jammu and Kashmir in flagrant violation of UN resolutions. The finance minister reaffirmed India's commitment to peace and stability in the region. It is in this spirit, he said, that New Delhi made six proposals, including a draft agreement on peace and tranquility along the Line of Control.

The Congress-I says Jammu and Kashmir cannot revert back to the 1953 status. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrarkar, told reporters in New Delhi today that the clock cannot be put back. He said the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India is final and irreversible.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has welcomed the prime minister's suggestion to freeze the Kashmir issue for the time being and to hold talks with Pakistan to improve relations. Talking to newspersons in Lucknow today, he said Pakistani propaganda against India should be countered effectively. Mr. Vajpayee said the people in the Kashmir valley are fed up with terrorist activities.

Anti-Pakistan Demonstrations Held in Kashmir

BK0502133494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Massive anti-Pakistan demonstrations were held in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir today. Several thousand people, mostly youths, participated in the demonstrations to protest against the Pakistani role in abetting and sponsoring terrorism in various parts of India, especially Jammu and Kashmir. Effigies of Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and former premier Nawaz Sharif were burned at many places by the activists of the Youth Congress-I and other groups. Several youth organizations, including the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [state] Youth Congress-I, Democratic Youth Federation of India, Yuva Janata Dal [Youth Wing of Janata Dal], and Youth Kashmir Pundit Migrants organized protest rallies before the office of the United National Observers Group in Jammu. Later, they submitted a memorandum to the group, demanding that Pakistan be declared a terrorist country.

Thousands of youths gathered at the Wagah border to protest against the conspiracy by Pakistan against India. Addressing the demonstrators, the Youth Congress-I president, Mr. Maninder Singh Bitta, asked Pakistan to stop encouraging terrorism in India and work sincerely for peace between the two countries.

Protests Held Near U.S. Embassy

BK0502162794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Massive anti-Pakistan demonstrations were held in Jammu and Kashmir and several parts of the country today. Thousands of people participated in the demonstrations to protest against Islamabad's role in abetting and sponsoring terrorism in various parts of India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of Youth Congress-I workers held a massive rally close to the Indo-Pakistan border at Wagah in Punjab to denounce Pakistan's support to disruptive forces. Addressing the demonstrators, the Youth Congress-I president, Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bitta, asked Pakistan to stop encouraging terrorism in India and work sincerely for peace between the two countries.

In Jammu, several organizations, including the pradesh [state] Youth Congress-I, the Democratic Youth Federation of India, Yuva Janata Dal [youth wing of Janata Dal], Young Lawyers Association, ABVP [Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad—All India Student Council], National Youth Front, and All India Kashmiri Samaj [Society] organized the rallies. Activists of many of these organizations marched to the headquarters of the UN observers to submit memorandums against Pakistan's activities.

Effigies of the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif were burned at many places by the demonstrators. Reports reaching Jammu say anti-Pakistan slogans rented the air in the border villages of Kathua, Samba, Akhnoor, Rajaori, and Punch. Senior Congress-I leader Mr. Madanlal Sharma and the Youth Congress-I leader, Mr. Raman Bhalla, were among those who addressed the rally.

Demonstrations were held near the American Embassy and Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, protesting against the recent statements of these two countries on Kashmir. The demonstrators raised slogans and carried placards denouncing the statements.

In Orissa, Youth Congress-I activists held a rally in Bhubaneswar to protest against Pakistan's interference in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The Arunachal Pradesh Youth Congress-I also organized a protest rally in Itanagar and burned effigies of Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Reports of similar demonstrations have come in from other states.

The demonstrations coincided with the nationwide hartal [strike] in Pakistan called by the Bhutto government today to express solidarity with Kashmir militants.

Talks With China on Confidence-Building Measures End

BK0502103894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] The India-China expert group has agreed on several issues, including its mandate and the methodology to be followed in its future meetings. During its two-day meeting in New Delhi, the group expressed satisfaction at the confidence building measures which are already in place. Matters relating to clarification of the line of actual control, reduction of armed forces along the line, and prior information about military exercises and prevention of air intrusion came up for discussion during the talks. The Indian side, led by Mr. Shiva Shankara Menon, joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, included representatives from the Defense and Home Ministries and the Survey of India. The Chinese delegation was headed by Mr. Fu Xuejhang.

Surface-to-Air Missile Successfully Test-Fired

BK0502130694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] India's multitarget surface-to-air missile, Akash [sky], was successfully test-fired at Chandipur in coastal Orissa yesterday. In a technological breakthrough, the missile used an integrated two-stage rocket ramjet propulsion system. While a normal rocket has an inbuilt oxygen supply system, the ramjet rocket draws air during flight for combustion in conjunction with the fuel-rich propellants. India now joins an exclusive group of three nations possessing such technology. They are the United States, Russia, and France. The 650-kg missile Akash has a range of 25 km. It has a (?face) and a radar called Rajendra capable of multitargeting. Manufactured by the Defense Research and Development Organization, the missile Akash has multiple warheads which could target four to five enemy aircraft at long range. More than 100 parameters were monitored during the test-flight. Apart from propulsion parameters, the measured and predicted range values were in close agreement.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers First Friday Sermon

LD0402154694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1132 GMT 4 Feb 94

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 4 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We will have two short sermons today, with an eye on the time and current needs. The first sermon will include mostly issues relating to the revolution and its anniversary and some current issues. [passage omitted]

In my view one of the most effective factors in this important event should be sought in the people's awareness and vigilance. We have clearly felt, and feel, with all our being, that the strongest factor which made us victorious in the revolution and has foiled—and still foils—plots and acts of mischief and also safeguarded us and made us triumphant in the war, and gives us the opportunity to plan and carry out important infrastructural work, is that same awareness of the people and their vigilance and presence on the scene.

The reason why the people have become like that and why that awareness came about and why this phenomenon occurred in Iran, and why other places are not yet ripe for this divine phenomenon, cannot be overlooked easily. They raise fresh questions which lead to other questions when answered. [passage omitted]

The most fundamental thing that has happened during the last 20 years of struggle and the Islamic struggles of the previous decades is that the awareness of the people has increased. [passage omitted]

Competent leadership is the next thing. Very well, people are aware and vigilant and ready for self-sacrifice. If the masses are vigilant but have no leader to lead them they will face problems. We have seen such problems in many areas. But such appropriate grounds, people's awareness, make the leadership a great deal easier. We have many interesting examples of that. We did not have any political parties or party training before the revolution, we had no party network to bring people together and discipline them. We had masses of the self-initiating people. If you look at the moves made during the last year of the revolution you see that all of them were guided and well calculated.

If the people wanted to go on strike, they had leadership. If the headquarters in charge of the strikes issued an order that this sector should go on strike and the other sector should not, the people accepted that, even though it was difficult for them not to go on strike. When we said that the oil workers should go on strike, because at that time oil revenue was the main source of income for the Pahlavi regime and the world and the supporters of the regime would also have been greatly damaged by the loss of four or five million barrels of Iranian oil, the workers went on strike. Later, we discovered that there were difficulties in our domestic consumption, the people were faced with difficulties in their domestic use, then a delegation which went to the oil producing regions on behalf of the imam—and I was a member of that delegation—we witnessed an amazing degree of obedience among all these diverse but aware and vigilant groups. [passage omitted]

The other issue that I wish to refer to now—and it is an issue of great importance in the science of sociology and the movement of masses and history—is the trust which existed between the masses of the people and the leaders of the masses. This trust is very effective. If such a degree of trust existed in Afghanistan today, there would not be these wars there. If there was a person who was accepted by the people and who instructed the people not to fight and told them what to do, the people would have accepted it.

If such a degree of trust is created in any society between the leaders and the masses of the people and if this trust can be consolidated and can continue, this will provide the basis for movement, it will provide the means for eliminating difficulties and fighting against disruptions.

At the beginning of the Islamic revolutionary movement the enemies of Islam became aware of this secret. We see that from the first days of the revolution, the first weeks of the revolution, there were many efforts to create a rift between the leadership and the people, between the officials and the people. All the propaganda means of news imperialism and their domestic agents were used to weaken the trust of the people in their leaders and officials and to eliminate the love and affection which existed between the leadership and officials and the people.

This was one of the things they never succeeded in achieving. They carried out repeated attacks on that fortress, they exerted a great deal of pressure on that rampart, they subjected that popular trench to repeated bombardments, but they never produced any results. The bombs boomeranged back to themselves and targeted themselves.

Of course they have also used other means, they created internal unrest—which they described as street clashes—they staged a coup d'etat, they imposed the war with Iraq against us, they staged economic sanctions against us and did whatever they could; but what is still continuing is their molestation and satanic moves which started since the outset of the revolution. These things were ad hoc.

Street unrest, revolts and insecurity did not last long and we saw that it was the people who repelled such plots. [passage omitted]

You see that they have pursued a continuous chain of action, which is still going on, to create a rift between the officials and the people. They have a number of ad hoc means to which they resort such as war, revolt, and other such things.

We feel that the revolution is victorious in all arenas and it enjoys better support than it did 15 years ago and it is developing further. If it used to be easy for the enemy to create a shock, now it is no longer so. A better way of saying that is that the revolution has reached certain maturity. [passage omitted]

Today I see the foundations of the revolution to be so strong, its roots so deep in the heart of this community, the branches of the holy tree of the revolution so tall throughout the space of our country and other environments, and I see the people so much more aware, sincere and more in the arena, in line and in one with the revolution, that I think that those dangers that our enemies traditionally plot have passed by the revolution and our 15-year-old revolution has traversed a 100-year course.

Those sentiments, those sympathies, that strange scene that we saw at the immaculate tomb of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni] on 1 February, and the sentiments that came from the people after that—and still does—are all proof to our claim.

Now the march on 22 Bahman this year [11 February] will show those who had plotted to pale the hue of the revolution this year that their arrows have hit granite, those tricks have become old hat for our nation, the people have been vaccinated against those germs and will no longer be influenced. It is truly a wonderful event in the world. [passage omitted]

This incident to which your attention has now been drawn—the assassination attempt—to my mind this is a very minor issue which can always happen. A few people can always give rise to a small incident. However, these things are no longer of any importance to the revolution. You should feel quite reassured about that. The revolution has now become quite separated from individuals. I said that the revolution has reached the stage of maturity; it is no longer a child which needs suckling. It provides its own sustenance. A lofty figure like the imam of the ummah departed from among these people. At that time we shuddered to think about what would happen when the imam would no longer be among us. Then we witnessed this calm movement of an ocean of people, and this Islamic revolution continues forever on its path. Through divine guidance, this ship correctly continues its voyage toward its destination in this tumultuous ocean.

How effective can individuals be any longer in this revolution that others should put themselves in trouble, should put themselves in danger so that a certain individial may or may not be there; and that a person like me who is one of the most minor soldiers of this revolution!

I say that world arrogance, America and others should really know that in Iran they should give up the hope that by the physical or psychological elimination of individuals they can overcome the revolution.

May God protect you, your revolution and the leader of the revolution. We are very weak soldiers. There are many people like me who can be in the service of the people. Nothing important will take place through this route of assassination attempts.

Those who planned this act of mischief had something else in mind, something more than me. As I said, I am only an individual. Their aim was to weaken the revolution, to weaken the presence of the people upon the stage. If one day they can achieve that goal, they believe that they have achieved something major. Therefore, this is what they had in mind. They thought that in the presence of foreign reporters and the guests of the Ten Days of Dawn, in the first official meeting of the celebrations, a minor action which would have given rise to a great deal of publicity would have achieved those goals. This would have disrupted the very first meeting and would have created insecurity, and this would be the first defeat of the regime during the Ten Days of Dawn. This would have taken the luster away from the subsequent meetings, people would have felt insecure and would not have attended them. This would have been a sign to the world that the revolution had lost its luster. Of course, if they had achieved greater success and had been able to get rid of someone this would have provided them with greater success.

However, this is the sign of their stupidity. They should have looked a little to the past and to the events around them. Did not a bomb explode right here in the Friday prayers a few years ago, and did it not scatter parts of some people's bodies around the trees? Was the meeting disrupted? Did the Friday imam that day take one step back? Were the subsequent Friday prayers deserted? This should have been an example.

This was just the sound of a few shots, of a bomb. Have we forgotten that during the Friday prayers, in marches Iraqi bombers flew overhead and the roaring of the aircraft drowned the sound of the loudspeakers; but these people with their clenched fists and with the shouts of God is Great remained steadfast. How foolish it is to imagine that with such actions they can weaken the morale of the people. It is a futile hope that the morale of the people could be weakened.

The new strategy of world arrogance which I also referred to in a previous sermon, and the new official policy of colonialism regarding us is to weaken the morale of the people. Everything can be summed up in this one sentence. Such actions, and the efforts to minimize the achievements of the revolution or to exaggerate the difficulties of the revolution are their constant policies. Those policies may occasionally be intensified or occasionally be abated, but our people are vigilant. Our people understand. Our people see the countries around them. They see their neighboring countries. They see other revolutions. They see their own lives and they compare them.

First of all, the people see that what they staged the revolution for is getting stronger. Those who sacrifice their children are not after a more luxurious living. One sells all that one possesses and spends it on one's sick child. Here, they offer their young men, one or two or three, to be martyred in the fronts. It is clear that these people are after somethig different. You cannot deal with these people through material means.

Second, do not the people notice material issues? Even if for a hundred times they say that there are difficulties in Iran, there is such and such, when the people see that during the Ten Days of Dawn a factory, for instance a petrochemical plant, started production and it was officially announced that 1,000, I mean, that 700 factories have severed their links with foreign countries and are now providing their raw material from inside and by the hands of their own workers; when people see these tangible things, when they see that during the Ten Days of Dawn thousands of projects in villages and cities and everywhere have starting production, let someone moan or say something. Even in these issues the people will not be deceived and will not be misled. The people are not so illiterate and uninformed. If the people were uninformed they would have been misled and would have left the stage as the result of the propaganda during the satanic shah's period.

In any case, thanks be to God, they have missed their target. Regarding myself, I said that it was not important. The sentiments which I witness toward myself are really too much for me, I feel ashamed for so much kindness, for so many messages, for so many expressions of support. I ask all the dear ones, my brothers, and the nation to regard all this expression of kindness as sufficient. If there is a hearing ear, this much is sufficient to make them understand the situation inside our society. They should not waste their time on these messages and such like. I express my sincere thanks. It is not that I do not attach importance to these, but I believe that the issue is not worthy for you to spend your time and efforts on it. I am grateful. Let all the messages and expressions of support be for these 10 Days of Dawn and for the programs and ceremonies of the 10 Days of Dawn. [passage omitted]

'More Than 20' Arrested for Assassination Bid

NC0702092194 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have arrested more than 20 people for attempting to kill President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last week, Information Minister Ali Fallahian said.

Fallahian, quoted on Monday [7 February] by HAMSHAHRI newspaper, said the suspects either knew about the plot or played a direct role in the failed bid last Tuesday.

A gunman fired several shots as the president addressed a gathering in the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, but nobody was hurt.

The 26-year-old gunman, Kurosh Nik-Akhtar, was arrested immediately after the incident. His picture was published for the first time Monday on HAMSHAHRI's front page.

Fallahian said all of the people arrested in connection with the shooting had confessed to having "ominous and counter-revolutionary aims."

Several of the suspects are former members of leftist groups who served jail terms because of their "immoral and corrupt records," he said.

The minister added that the suspects had held a meeting the night before the incident to coordinate the attack and to ensure its success.

Khamene'i Warns Against 'Plots of Satanic Powers'

LD0602141694 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, on Sunday [6 February] warned against plots of satanic powers to physically eliminate those Iranian ulema who are efficient and helpful for the country, Islam and Muslims.

The supreme leader cited the February 2 aborted attempt on the life of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during a speech at the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeyni as the latest example of such plots.

"They attempted to strip Muslim ummah of one of the prominent, efficient and devotee personalities of the Islamic Republic, our beloved president...but thanks God this time they were frustrated as in many of their previous plots and treasons," the leader said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i made the remarks in his speech to a large group of ulema, Friday prayer leaders and professors and students of theological schools.

The supreme leader termed the Islamic revolution as a great storm which thwarted treacherous conspiracies and ambitious plans of the U.S. and its lackeys in Iran, helped spread Islam and attracted other nations to spirituality. "This paid the way for the collapse of the eastern empire and of Marxist rule in the world," he said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also lauded the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeyni, for laying the foundation of an Islamic system of government in a world estranged from spiritual values.

"But the reality is that there are many people who have neither realized nor felt the greatness of these two phenomena—imam and the revolution. We should try to make this great truth tangible in the life of Muslims both in Iran and throughout the world," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the leader pointed out that piety, faith and knowledge is the key to all problems.

Ayatollah Khamene'i cautioned that hypocritical and blasphemous powers of the world, now fearful of the vigilance of Muslims, have closed their ranks to get rid of the increasing influence of Islam.

"What is now happening in the four corners of the world such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria and Kashmir betrays the deep enmity of the oppressors with Islam and the Islamic Republic," the leader concluded.

Sunni Leaders Condemn Presidential Assassination Bid

LD0602115494 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Feb 6, IRNA—A group of Friday prayer leaders and ulema of Sunni muslims of the cities of Khauf [placename as received] and Torbat-e Jam, east of this northeastern border province, in message have condemned the last week assassination attempt on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's life.

Mowlavi Ghowseddin Ahrari, Mowlavi Nik Kerdar and Hajj Qazi, Friday prayer leaders of khauf, Sangan And torbat-e Jam as well as Mowlavi Mottahari and Sheikh Assadollah Tavasoli, heads of the theological schools of Khauf and Torbat-e Jam sent separate messages to the president. [spelling of all personal names as received]

In their statements, the Sunni Muslim leaders wished for the longitude of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and stressed that failure of the attempt was a sign of God's favor.

Muslims Stage Unity Demonstration in Zahedan

LD0602122894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] In a large and rare demonstration in Zahedan today, tens of thousands of Shiite and Sunni Muslims manifested their unity against the plots designed by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Our colleagues report from the Central News Unit of Zahedan.

[Unidentified correspondent] The brave and ever vigilant people of Zahedan participated in a large and rare demonstration this morning, in which they condemned the plots designed by the enemies of the Islamic revolution and showed, in splender to the world, their lasting vigilance and brave presence in all spheres of the revolution.

Among the demonstrators were representative of the Guardian Juriconsult, Hojjat ol-eslam Mohamaddian, Mr. Hojjati, the governor general of the Sistan-va Baluchestan Province, and various classes of people including Shiites and Sunnis.

The demonstration is clear and vocal evidence of unity among all strata of the martyr-rearing nation of Islamic Iran in adherence to the orders of the esteemed leader.

In the demonstration tens of thousands of martyr-rearing people of Zahedan chanted: God is great and Khamene'i is our leader; To support Hashemi is to support the leader; Our unity is Islamic and our enemy is the world arrogant; Sunnis and Shiites should be vigilant, for the enemy waits for an opportunity; and death to American and Israel.

The demonstrators passed through the predetermined routes and gathered at the crossroad of Amir al-Momenin and Imam Khomeyni avenues.

The gathering ended with a four-point resolution.

Jordan's Decision Part of 'U.S. Effort' To Isolate Iran

PM0402162894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unusual Calm in Iran's Response to Jordan's Expulsion of Diplomats"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iran yesterday responded in an unusually calm manner to Jordan's decision to expel 21 Iranian diplomats. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Tehran said that "Jordan's decision has come to our attention and we are going to implement it."

Diplomatic sources have said that the decision to expel the diplomats was taken at "the highest level." And that King Husayn during his visit to Washington received "comprehensive documents" about what were termed subversive activities carried out by 26 Iranian diplomats in Amman. The sources pointed out that other "intelligence information" from the United States and Israel reveals the Iranian Embassy's implication in "activities harmful to Jordanian interests."

Iranian sources say that Jordan's decision is part of a broader "U.S. effort" to isolate Iran. And that Washington asked two other Arab states, namely Oman and Qatar, to reconsider their policies toward Iran. But the diplomatic sources said that Iran is accused of involvement in the following actions: —Distributing huge quantities of propagandist informational items in Jordan. These items are sometimes transported by trucks.

—Financing "suspect candidates" in the November elections.
—Trying to cause a split and instigate opposition to Jordan's position on the peace process in the Middle East.
—Financing radical groups to oppose the peace process.
—Encouraging certain terrorist operations like the attack on cinemas in Amman and al-Zarqa'.
—Iran's possible involvement—via Hizballah—in the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut.

U.S. Navy's 'Illegal' Gulf Activities Protested

LD0402183194 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), Feb. 4, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, in a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Thursday [3 February] protested the illegal activities of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Kharrazi complained that between June 25 to September 16, 1993, the U.S. naval forces disrupted the routine patrolling of an Iranian air fighter and six helicopters over Iranian waters and threatened them to change their course.

In his letter Kharrazi emphasised that the Iranian interest section in Washington last month asked the Embassy of Pakistan to inform American secretary of state over the incident and to ask for an explanation.

The letter describing details of the incident was distributed as a United Nations Security Council document at the UN headquarters here on Thursday.

Europe, U.S. Show 'Unlimited Decadence' Toward Bosnia

NC0702082194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Commentary from the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly the residents of the besieged city of Sarajevo, spent last night in a state of fear and apprehension of more heavy artillery attacks by the Serbs. This apprehension was heightened by the failure of talks involving the UN representatives to establish a cease-fire between the Serbs and Muslims.

The UN representatives' attempts failed because of Serb opposition to the removal of their heavy weapons and artillery from the area around the Bosnian capital. Despite the scale of the catastrophe of Saturday's [5 February] massacre, its unprecedented nature, and the innumerable sacrifices it claimed, stunning and horrifying people enormously, the UN representatives remain skeptical. They announced that it is difficult to examine the incident.

Along with this stance, European countries are seen to be quite ambivalent, reluctant to condemn the Serbs for this savage and antihuman act and brutal threats. They continue to give conflicting assessments of possible strikes on Serb positions—even though the Serbs have violated the UN Security Council resolutions. That, ultimately, indicates a lack of consensus on the need to take serious steps.

The United States has said it cannot assume sole responsibility for any action against the Serbs. This, while the European and American communities—with their own doubts and impotence—fail to consent to other countries, including those of the Islamic world, intervening to prevent massacres in Bosnia-Herzegovina from continuing.

Many political experts say that even if the Western countries acted against the Serbs, this action would not be considered within the framework of a fundamental solution to the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis. It would merely be a way of mitigating the pressure of public opinion. This, because the Europeans continue to step up their pressure on the Muslims to accept a compromise and the partitioning of Bosnia-Herzegovina anytime a possible plan for any measures against the Serbs is mentioned.

The West's unjustified conduct, the contradiction in its words and deeds, and the vacillation in the stances of the EC and the United States indicate the unlimited decadence of ethical values prevailing over the West's policies. With such low ethical and moral values, Europe and the United States are nothing more than terminally ill patients with little time left until their demise.

Ministry Issues Statement on Sarajevo Attack

LD0602113594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the attack by the Serbs on the market in Sarajevo. In a statement it describes the attack as a sign of the continuing inhumane and terrorist crime of the Serbs against the people of Sarajevo. The statement refers to the non-use of force by the United Nations in attempting to establish peace and security in Bosnia-Herzegovina as giving the Serbs a free hand in the genocide of Muslims.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry statement reaffirms the need for the United Nations to rapidly intervene in order to stop the merciless massacre of the people in Bosnia, and calls for an end to the arms embargo imposed on the defenseless people of Bosnia. The Foreign Ministry statement describes the negligence by the Security Council and the UN secretary general as a violation of the principles and objectives of the United Nations, and an insult to world public opinion.

Our country's Foreign Ministry statement continues: The Islamic Republic of Iran once again announces its readiness to send peacekeeping forces, under the supervision of the United Nations, to Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a step that would help to end the genocide in Bosnia. The Islamic Republic of Iran regards the failure of the Security Council to make an urgent decision on Bosnia as dangerous for the honor and standing of the United Nations, the spirituality of the human race [as heard], and peaceful coexistence in international relations.

Our country's foreign minister spoke to our correspondent today. He called for the swift action of international circles in order to put an end to the massacre of civilians in Bosnia.

Further on Sarajevo Shelling

NC0602073494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] We begin our news today with the latest incoming reports on the Serbs' unprecedented attack on the people in Sarajevo. Reports indicate that the casualty toll of the besieged and war-stricken people of Sarajevo from this attack has increased to more than 250. Our colleague in Europe has sent us more information on this attack:

[Begin recordeding] [Unidentified correspondent in Bonn] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzic has said that 66 were killed and 197 wounded in this attack, which is the worst attack on civilians since the onset of the war in Sarajevo. After the attack, in which a 120-mm mortar was used, Sarajevo's central market was the scene of bodies and of severed limbs. Many of the wounded died in the halls of Sarajevo hospitals due to the lack of medical facilities and medicine.

This attack has sparked off an extensive wave of disgust and rage among the Sarajevo residents at the indifference that is being shown by the United Nations and the West regarding the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While condemning the policy of the United Nations and the West, the officials of Bosnia-Herzegovina have called for military steps to end the attacks on civilians or the lifting of the arms embargo on the Muslims.

Public mourning has been declared in Bosnia-Herzegovina to commemorate the martyrs of Black Saturday. Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzic said to correspondents: Why is the United Nations supporting the aggressors and imposing sanctions on the victims? Are the 200,000 people whom we have lost so far not enough for the international community to take serious steps? Bosnian President Alia Izetbegovic also stated that any government that supports the arms embargo on the Muslims is a partner in these crimes.

Meanwhile, in continuation of their past policies, Western and UN officials have limited themselves to a verbal condemnation of the attack and have called for investigations to identify those who are responsible for the attack. After the Saturday tragedy, the governments of France and Britain have once again stressed the need to continue the talks. British Defense Secretary Rifkind said: I do not think that an air raid on Serb positions will solve the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe has stated: If the international community does not react seriously to this attack, we will lose all our credibility. [end recording]

Naval Exercises Planned With Pakistan

LD0702115994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Brigadier General Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, who is visiting Pakistan, has announced that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to expand military cooperation in various fields and said that it was also agreed in the course of his talks with Pakistan's military officials that Iran and Pakistan would hold their first joint exercises in the high seas in the near future.

Speaking about the details of these exercises in an interview with our correspondent in Islamabad, Commodore Shamkhani said:

[Begin Shamkhani recording] As you know, as an extension of our own joint domestic exercises—by the naval forces of the IRGC and the navy—we felt it necessary to carry out joint exercises with some of our neighboring countries. Toward this aim, we will have our first joint exercises with another country since the victory of the revolution in the form of joint naval exercises with Pakistan. These exercises will take place in the high seas and with the participation of the warships of Iran and Pakistan. Four warships will take part from Iran, and the exercises will last four days. The planning, training, and preparatory stages of these exercises have been completed, and the exercises themselves will take place in the near future, God willing. [end recording]

Sultan of Brunei Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0602124094 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—Brunei's Sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah wrapped up his four-day visit to Iran Sunday [6 February] morning and was officially seen off at Mehrabad International Airport by Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Ranfsanjani.

Brunei's minister of finance and a number of top-ranking officials were also accomanying the sultan in his visit.

Before his departure Sultan Bolkiah attended a press conference in which President Rafsanjani was also present. Sultan Bolkiah termed as "successful" his visit to Iran and expressed happiness over having the chance to meet with the leader of Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. He remarked that the issues discussed during his talks in Tehran could be followed up later. He extended an invitation to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Brunei.

The Brunei's sultan pointed to the present crises in the Islamic world and underlined the need for the settlement of the problems through joint measures at international forums and in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic conference (OIC).

President Hashemi-Ranfsanjani said that in the talks with the Brunei's delegation, the two countries explored avenues for future cooperation and praised sultan Bolkiah for his stands on Islamic and international issues which he said were very close to those of Iran. He expressed satisfaction over the results of the sultan's visit to Iran and accepted his invitation to pay a visit to Brunei.

Communique Issued on Visit

LD0602124794 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA—Iran and Brunei here Sunday [6 February] issued a joint communique at the end of the 4-day visit to Tehran of the Brunei's sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah.

The communique was signed by the ambassador of Brunei here Haji Subaini ben Haji Mohammad Hassan and Iran's accredited ambassador to Brunei Ahmad Adjalluian [names as received].

It condemned human rights violation and continuation of aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovnia, ethnic cleansing in particular, and expressed concern over prolongation of the seizure and bombardment of Sarajevo.

The two sides also reiterated their support for firm determination of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in calling for an end to the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims.

The Islamic Republic and Brunei share common views on different international issues, specially those related to Muslims, added the communique. The two countries underlined the need for closer cooperation for the establishment of international peace and stability as well as respect for the principled regulations asserted in the United Nations Charter.

Iran and Brunei called as effective establishment of cooperation and relations between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Associatiion of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The communique also called for further bilateral cooperation in OIC and for joint measures to employ the organization's resources for boosting cooperation among other OIC member states.

Among other issues, the communique underlined the need for the encouragement of bilateral trade relations, joint ventures and cultural, educational and academic cooperation.

Expressing satisfaction over promotion of cordial relations between the two countries, Iran and Brunei hoped that the visit would pave the way for further expansion of ties and mutual cooperation.

Besharati Appointed Head of Law Enforcement Forces

LD0502115794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has issued an edict appointing Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati as the commander in chief's deputy in charge of the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a period of three years.

Here follows the text of the message from the eminent leader:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency 'Ali Mohammed Besharati, the esteemed interior minister. Taking into consideration your revolutionary background, commitment, trustworthiness and caring efforts toward your duties, and to give greater operational power to the interior minister in establishing security and welfare for the people, I appoint you as the commander in chief's deputy in charge of the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a period of three years.

I hope that you succeed in carrying out your responsibilities through the extensive authority entrusted to you, and the interest and support of the Forces' commanders and its dynamic personnel.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Pakistan

Bhutto on Kashmir Strike, Indian Leader's Remarks

BK0602123894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has expressed happiness over yesterday's successful strike and said that it has provided a new inspiration and strength to the valiant struggle of the Kashmiri people. In a message last night, she said that observance of the strike from the coastal regions of Karachi and Gwadar to the blood-soaked Anantnag in occupied Kashmir was aimed as a reminder of the Kashmiris' basic right and to assert that the Kashmiris are not alone in their just struggle. She expressed confidence that the strike will force world public opinion to realize once again that it will not be in the interests of the world community to ignore the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the struggle of the Kashmiri people, the prime minister said that the strike was a part of the government's policy to get the Kashmir issue resolved in accordance with UN resolutions. She said that this was the strategy under which she traveled to Geneva to address the UN Human Rights Commission where she raised the Kashmir issue. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the strike and her address to the UN Human Rights Commission have helped highlight the Kashmir issue at the global level. She said that the peaceful proposals presented by Pakistan in accordance with international law are responded to with threats of war. We cannot be browbeaten by these threats, she added.

The prime minister said that some Indian leaders have started criticizing her personal life. She does not care for this criticism because she prefers the Kashmiris' right to self-determination over anything else, she added. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that all such activities point to India's bewilderment. She said that we still favor a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and believe that peace cannot be achieved without providing justice. The prime minister said that Pakistan still wishes India to hold talks to resolve the Kashmir issue. She urged India to take steps to peacefully resolve the Kashmir problem in accordance with international law.

Prime Minister Bhutto said Pakistan will continue to extend diplomatic, moral, and political support to the Kashmiri brethren until India holds talks with Pakistan. She said that by showing solidarity with the Kashmiris, Pakistan has proven that Pakistanis and Kashmiris have the same soul. She said that world public opinion has started taking note of Indian brutal atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Indian propaganda that the freedom struggle in Kashmir depends on Pakistan has been exposed, she added.

Government Protests India's Sharma's Remarks on Bhutto

BK0502103094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest over Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma's remarks against the person of its prime minister. Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lambha was summoned to the foreign office in Islamabad yesterday and was told that the assault on the person of the prime minister is not only unjustifiable but is also against the civilized norms of behavior between sovereign nations. The Pakistani foreign office has also said that the campaign launched by India to malign the Pakistani prime minister cannot misguide world public opinion, which has openely held India responsible for the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The government of Pakistan very much regrets that the Indian president also has involved himself in the campaign.

Bhutto Reaffirms Support for 'Usurped Rights'

BK0602150694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has declared that Pakistan would not be cowed down by any threat and no power can restrain us from supporting the cause of righteousness, justice, and equality. Addressing the Balochistan local bodies convention in Sibi today, she said we have been raising our voice against injustices and atrocities wherever they have been committed—be it Bosnia, Kashmir, or Palestine. We would continue our support for the usurped rights of the people and no threat can intimidate us.

The prime minister said we supported the brotherly people of Afghanistan against Soviet aggression and are making every effort for peace to prevail in that country so that it rebuilds itself with the cooperation of brotherly countries. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said we love Pakistan, we love the land which we achieved after great sacrifices and would build this country into a strong and prosperous state. Millions of people of the subcontinent rendered tremendous sacrifices and laid down their lives to achieve a separate homeland for Muslims of South Asia where they could lead a life of respect, honor and independence. She said democracy has been restored in Pakistan through fair and impartial elections and an Awami [popular] government has taken over the reigns of the country. This government with the active support of the people would make every endeavor to accelerate the pace of development and bring about all-round progress and prosperity.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said it is our collective responsibility to work for the solidarity, integrity, and prosperity of the country and we must translate the dreams of the Quaed-i-Azam [great leader Jinnah] into reality. The people are the real heirs and owners of the country, and therefore, the government is paying due attention toward their betterment, she said. [passage omitted]

'Complete Strike' Held in Soldarity With Kashmir

BK0502160094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The nation today observed complete strike to express solidarity with brethren in occupied Kashmir facing unprecedented rein of repression unleashed by Indian occupation forces. People on both sides of the Line of Control dividing the Kashmir valley also observed complete strike.

In occupied Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriat Conference decided to observe the strike in response to an appeal made by Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto. Today was a closed day. Business and commercial centers, government and semi-government offices, and educational institutions remained closed. Public transport remained off the road and life came to a standstill throughout the country.

The call for strike to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people struggling for their right of self-determination was given by the Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir. The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto gave all-out support to the strike, highlighting the nation's commitment to the Kashmiri cause. Opposition parties joined hands, demonstrating that the entire nation is united behind the government on this national issue.

In the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, processions were taken out and rallies organized by people of all shades of political opinion, business, traders, students and labor organizations to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir. The processionists parading through various streets chanted slogans against repression the Indian Army and paramilitary forces have unleashed against the people in occupied Kashmir.

Addressing the rally, speakers condemned the Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and demanded that the United Nations implement its resolutions on Kashmir in order to determine the wishes of the Kashmiri people in a free and impartial plebiscite. They said the unprecedented unity shown by the people throughout the country today spoke of their determination to continue to extend moral and political support to their Kashmiri brethren in their struggle against Indian hegemony. They condemned the Indian president for his unsavory comments against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and said Ms. Benazir Bhutto has emerged as the spokesman of the Kashmiri people.

Later, leaders of the rally went to the Indian High Commission and handed over a memorandum.

Trade and labor organizations also staged demonstrations in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to express solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren. Carrying banners and placards, the marchers condemned Indian atrocities and urged the world community to halt human rights abuses in the held valley. They supported the government policy on Kashmir and assured that they will not rest until the Kashmiri people throw off their Indian yoke. [passage omitted]

Supporting the call of the Pakistani prime minister, a complete strike was observed in occupied Kashmir. Reports say life remained paralyzed in towns and cities of the valley. All government and private institutes and offices; schools, colleges, and universities; banks; and courts remained closed and transport was off the road. Agency reports say Kashmiris staged demonstration rallies in the capital, Srinagar, and other big towns of the valley. They were chanting slogans against Indian troops' atrocities. Indian soldiers used brute force against the demonstrators. The All Parties Hurriat Conference and various religious and mojahedin organizations have endorsed the call for today's strike to demonstrate that the people of occupied Kashmir wholeheartedly appreciate Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

Bhutto's Spouse To Carry Medicine, Message to Saddam

JN0602183794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 94

[Ahmad Idris dispatch from Islamabad]

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced in Islamabad today that, within the next two days, she will dispatch her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, as a special envoy to Iraq at the head of a delegation with about 14 tonnes of medicine. Zardari will bear a message from Bhutto to President Saddam Husayn. Informed sources say the message is connected to the release of two Pakistani soldiers and one civilian who were sentenced to seven years imprisonment in Iraq after entering Iraqi territory by mistake, as was claimed at the time, while on the job in a mine field on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Under the leadership of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan dispatched troops within the Desert Shield operation in the second Gulf war and expelled an Iraqi diplomat.

The two countries relations were not satisfactory during the rule of General Ziaul Haq.

Informed sources told our radio that the Pakistani delegation will discuss with officials in Baghdad the causes for their tense relations. The sources voiced optimism that Iraq will release the imprisoned Pakistanis and that relations will be restored to what they were during the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir's first government—a state of utmost cordiality.

CIA Shooting Suspect Reportedly Sighted in Sehwan

BK0502144894 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Karachi—Mir Aimal Kansi, 30, a suspect wanted in connection with the firing at the CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was seen in Sehwan between January 17 to 23. Kansi is one of the '10 most wanted' people in the United States.

This correspondent, who happened to be in Sehwan for a visit, saw a strange, clean-shaven, fair and tall person and recognised him immediately as Aimal Kansi. Pictures of Kansi have appeared on wanted posters all over the world. However, neither this correspondent not Kansi introduced themselves to each other.

Between puffs of hashish, the person who stared at the Indus Hotel of Sehwan, where the shrine of Qalandar Lal Shahbaz and a "Kafi" of a Pashtoon Seth (businessman) are situated, said that he was on a visit to the shrine of the Sufi mystic.

He said that he was in the transport businesses in Karachi, however, he refused to give his residential address in that city. "The whole world is my home," he said when asked about his permanent abode.

Speaking in pidgin Urdu and occasionally in fluent English, Kansi said that his original village was near Zhob in Balochistan but he had spent most of his life in the United States of America and Germany.

After the firing incident, the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had recovered an AK-47 assault rifle from an apartment where Kansi used to live with his friends. The FBI report said the rifle was the same as that used in the shooting. The report also stated that Kansi had no criminal record and that his neighbours generally thought him to be a normal person who posed no threat to anyone.

The Fairfax Country Police of Virginia and the FBI had issued warrants against Kansi, after the firing, charging with the shooting on January 25 that occurred during the morning rush hour traffic just outside the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Two CIA personnel were killed and three others were injured in the bizarre shooting for which no motive has been established.

In February last year a team of the FBI had come to Pakistan and raided, alongwith Pakistani officials, some of the houses of the people who belonged to the Kansi tribe of Quetta in an attempt to arrest the accused. The raids, however, failed as the family informed the officials that Kansi had left for the US a couple of days back.

The manhunt for Kansi led to a dead-end. Finally the US authorities placed a reward of $100,000 for information leading to the arrest of Mir Aimal Kansi.

"I was operated upon twice in the States because of excessive drinking. That is why I have given up alcohol," Kansi said, surrounded by some of the Malangs (spiritually intoxicated followers) of Sher Baaz Qalandar, who were sharing [word indistinct] of hashish, Kansi showed me his [word indistinct] and said, "I was, first, comforted with hashish in Germany by my girlfriend and since then I feel that anybody who does not experience the joy of smoking hashish cannot enjoy life." Thick clouds of smoke swirled around his tough face.

"This person takes hashish worth Rs [Rupees] 100 daily. said a bearer of the hotel about Kansi, when asked how much, approximately, hashish he took in a day.

Kansi also said that his father was an army officer "But now I am all alone."

When he was very high Kansi opened up and displayed his feelings. he laughingly requested: "My friends, now I feel very alone. Please made arrangements for my wedding." A servant at the hotel told THE NEWS that the person, we were talking about, did not meet anybody during his week-long stay in Sehwan.

"I visit the shine of the Qalandar because I feel a certain peace there. I have hashish and Khang with the Malangs sitting inside the shrine," Kansi said.

He, however avoided any other discussion about the United States other than references to his girl-friends and hashish smoking. This correspondent also did not show any eagerness about anything because this could have led to some suspicion or the part of Kansi.

Kansi was very impressed by the quality of the hashish available in Sehwan. "If you guys were in Germany with this quality of hashish, I swear, the girls would be crazy about you."

After this chance encounter with Kansi, he disappeared from the hotel and the town. Despite efforts by this correspondent to trace him again he was never seen in the vicinity of the town.

Aimal Kansi had gone to the US from Pakistan and was working as courier with a private company.

A recent report from Bangkok also said that the police's special branch teams had received information from Washington that Kansi, had slipped into Thailand in mid-December to hide in the network of guerillas and criminal gangs operating from there.

The Thai police, on the information, have circulated wanted posters for the arrest of three men—Kansi, Mohammad Farooq and Ramsi Ahmad Yusuf. The latter two are suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing case.

The wanted posters offer two million US dollars for the information leading the arrest of suspects.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.